



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA
COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 17, 2011
TO: Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney
FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria
SUBJECT: Utility Undergrounding

Todd Gloria

Many of my constituents are concerned with the potential negative aesthetic impacts that may result from the installation of new, above ground facilities as part of the City's Utility Undergrounding Program.

It is the desire of the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group to address these negative aesthetic issues through the formation of a city-wide task force which would be aimed at developing a Council Policy or Ordinance that guides utility undergrounding engineering. I believe that this task force could be modeled after the City's Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Committee.

However, I have also been notified that the City of San Diego may not have the jurisdiction or authority to enact such policies, given that utility companies are generally regulated by state law and the Public Utility Commission.

Will you please advise at to whether or not the City of San Diego has the authority to implement such policies that would guide the design and subsequent aesthetic impacts associated with the utility undergrounding program? And, if so, please advise whether a Council Policy, Ordinance or other mechanism would be the appropriate means of doing so.

cc: Mayor Jerry Sanders
City Councilmembers

TG/da