



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Al Beltrami, Chief Executive Officer at 707/463-4441

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UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT APPROVED IN GUALALA

Ukiah, California... *August 14, 2007*

At the August 14, Board meeting, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved an underground utility district by designating certain portions of the town of Gualala as Underground Utility District No. 10. The Department of Transportation, in a combined effort with the Gualala community and the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council, worked diligently to develop the expanded district boundaries, a one mile strip between Center Street and Robinson Reef Drive as measured along State Highway 1.

The project will utilize Pacific Gas and Electric Company funds, under Rule 20A, as well as a portion of the County General Fund to convert individual property overhead electric panels to underground panels, and contract out for soil cleanup work prior to trenching the underground utility conduits in Gualala.

Howard Dashiell, Director of Transportation, said, "There are still challenges to be worked out over how to access Rule 20A and/or 32 Programs money to pay part of the hookup fees associated with the project. Transportation staff has asked the Gualala Municipal Advisory Committee (GMAC) to help coordinate with the community and the affected underground district property owners, for the common good and the implementation of the underground utility district."

Supervisor David Colfax, 5th District, applauded the effort of staff and the community, "People have waited a long time down there, and I'm glad to see that Howard is moving this forward. It's time to get this project off the ground, and I'm happy that it is finally happening."