



City of Gonzales

SPECIAL PROJECTS

STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor Orozco and City Council

DATE: February 1, 2016

FROM: Harold R. Wolgamott, Emergency Services Director/Special Projects Analyst

THROUGH: René L. Mendez, City Manager

SUBJECT: Dig Once Policy

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council consider and adopt a Dig Once Policy (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND

The City of Gonzales needs to encourage development of high-speed broadband communications within the community for many reasons.

Communications companies need access to homes and businesses. Overhead poles are available in some areas, and others need underground communication paths.

The Dig Once concept has been developed to allow jurisdictions to have more options for broadband communications where possible.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Staff has been working as part of the Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC) to improve internet connectivity for the area for years. The Dig Once concept was developed as part of these efforts.

The idea is that if a street is torn up for work; 1) why tear it up again if needed for communications in the future; 2) the community maintains the conduits installed for potential future use(s); and 3) the use of the City owned conduits may provide some revenue or reduced rates for users of the system(s).

The attached policy is used in other places. More complex policy and ordinance options are used in some jurisdictions. Staff has known the need for this type of policy for some time, but did not have a model that was in use without pages of technical specifications. This policy is similar to Salinas' and appears to be working there.

Staff believes there is sufficient potential gain to justify the incremental cost to projects for installation of conduits for communications.

Staff intends on continuing the effort to work with the CCBC to have regional specifications for the type and number of conduits to be installed in these projects.

This Dig-Once Policy is only one part of the ongoing effort to bring better connectivity to Gonzales.

Explain Recommendation and How it Supports the Vision

Gonzales will continue to be a safe, clean, family-friendly community, diverse in its heritage, and committed to working collaboratively to preserve and retain its small town charm.

Explain: This Policy is part of the collaboration efforts with the Central Coast Broadband Consortium for the benefit of Gonzales residents, and businesses.

Explain how the Recommendation Directly Implements the Mission

The City Council and Staff of the City of Gonzales will realize our Vision by providing the leadership, commitment, and resources necessary to provide excellent services that enhance the quality of life of our diverse community.

Explain: Staff believes this policy will continue the excellent services enjoyed in Gonzales, and enhance the potential for future growth in these services.

City services will be delivered in a cost-effective, respectful, and friendly manner to insure the safety and well being of the residents and the promotion of business, recreational, housing and employment opportunities in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Explain: The attached Policy has many cost savings and little cost. Staff believes the value of having communications paths available to leverage for enhanced services in Gonzales is worth the cost to projects. Staff believes this is a cost-effective program.

Strong fiscal policies allow us to provide appropriate infrastructure for:

- *Public Safety* Yes ___ No ___ NA
- *Housing* ___ Yes ___ No NA
- *Recreation* Yes ___ No ___ NA
- *Environment* ___ Yes ___ No NA
- *Education* Yes ___ No ___ NA

Explain: The attached policy says the conduit will be installed unless a specific project is not cost-effective or practical. Only installing conduit when cost-effective is consistent with other approved polices and budgets.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could direct staff to bring back an ordinance to codify the policy and standards for installing broadband conduit, for development of a system for fiber in Gonzales. Staff recommends against this option at this time since it is complicated and not cost effective at this time. Staff

continues to participate in the Central Coast Broadband Consortium, and will bring back improvements when they are practical for Gonzales.

The City Council could determine that the incremental cost to projects would be too burdensome and not approve this policy. Staff recommends against this option at this time. If the policy proves to be too burdensome or costly, the City Council could remove it in the future.

The City Council could modify the policy. Staff is open to recommendations for improvement. The attached policy is modified from a policy that appears to be working effectively.

BUDGET IMPACT

There is no specific budget impact at this time. Each project that had empty conduit will be increased incrementally in cost. Each project will be evaluated for cost-effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends the City Council consider and adopt the attached Dig Once Policy.