



UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT SOLE SOURCE FIVE YEAR TERM

Riverside Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities
July 26, 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. Since 1976, the State of California has had the DigAlert program
2. Per California Government Code Section 4216, excavators must contact DigAlert for underground installations at the dig site to be located and marked
3. DigAlert is administered by a non-profit mutual benefit corporation funded by utility members
 - a. In Southern California, DigAlert is administered by a sole program provider – Underground Service Alert
4. RPU is an operator of underground installations and is required to support costs associated with DigAlert

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BACKGROUND (CON'T)

5. The California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board (Dig Safe Board) was created by the Dig Safe Act of 2016 as part of Underground Service Alert
6. The Dig Safe Board coordinates the state's education, develops safety standards, investigates dig-in accidents, enforces violations of the Dig Safe Law, and makes enforcement recommendations
7. Government Code 4216.16 (b) authorizes the Board to levy this fee on California's DigAlert members
 - a. A new state regulator fee was established to fund the Dig Safe Board and RPU is now annually assessed the fee



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DISCUSSION

1. Historically, costs associated with the DigAlert program were under \$50,000 per year
2. Over the years, costs for the DigAlert program have increased, and now with the annual fee to support the Dig Safe Board, the total annual costs to Underground Service Alert have exceeded \$50,000

Year	Dig Safe Board Fee	DigAlert Program Fees	Total Annual Expenditure
2021	\$ 16,766.35	\$ 45,480.00	\$ 62,246.35
2020	\$ 13,358.91	\$ 35,327.80	\$ 48,686.71
2019	\$ 18,111.76	\$ 33,347.70	\$ 51,459.46



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DISCUSSION

1. RPU is required to fund the DigAlert program and the Dig Safe Board by State Law
2. The program serves an important public safety role and protects underground utility infrastructure
3. The annual payments are routine
4. Staff estimates that the costs will remain relatively steady each year but recognizes that the total costs each year are dependent on the amount of digging and excavating that occurs in the City
5. Staff requests approval for 5 years of funding to cover the DigAlert Program costs

RECOMMENDATION

That the Riverside Public Utilities Board approve the expenditure with Underground Service Alert of Southern California for the next five years, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026, for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.