WATER | ENERGY | LIFE

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES **DATE: AUGUST 24, 2026**

SUBJECT: **HUNTER SUBSTATION 4KV TO 12KV MAKE-READY FOR CIRCUIT 26 PROJECT – WORK ORDER NO. 2405325 FOR A TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF $3,449,918.26**

ISSUE:

Consider the approval of Work Order No. 2405325 for a total capital expenditure of $3,449,918.26 for the Hunter Substation 4kV to12kV Make-Ready for Circuit 26 Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities approve Work Order No. 2405325 for a total capital expenditure of $3,449,918.26 for the Hunter Substation 4kV to12kV Make-Ready for Circuit 26 Project.

BACKGROUND:

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) prepared a long-term Electric System Master Plan (ESMP) to identify critical infrastructure upgrades that would support electric system load growth and modernize the RPU distribution system. A key upgrade recommended by the ESMP was the conversion of all remaining 4kV to 12kV distribution circuits to improve system capacity and reliability.

The replacement of deteriorated overhead poles and associated distribution facilities is also part of the electric utility's master plan and is part of the utilities ongoing facility maintenance. RPU's long-term strategy and commitment to the community is to strengthen system resilience and deliver dependable service to customers.

On January 14, 2019, the Board of Public Utilities (Board) approved Work Order No. 1826767 for the Hunter Substation Replacement Project. Hunter Substation serves both residential and commercial customers, including the Hunter Industrial Park. It is also located near city limits, which greatly decreases its ability to transfer load to nearby circuits. The implementation of the new Hunter Substation will no longer support the 4kV distribution infrastructure. Therefore, the existing 4kV distribution system must be converted to 12kV.

On February 23, 2026, the Board approved Work Order No. 2124085 for the Hunter Substation 4kV to 12kV Make-Ready for Circuits 21 and 22 Project, for the replacement of twenty-two (22) poles, (23) overhead transformers, approximately 4,983 circuit feet of primary conductors, and related overhead distribution facilities.

In preparation for the completion of the Hunter Substation replacement project and for the future conversion of Hunter Circuits 26 from 4kV to 12kV, it is necessary to replace existing deteriorated poles and aging infrastructure as well as perform the work to facilitate the upgrade to the distribution system. These poles and associated infrastructure are at risk of failure and can become a safety hazard, as well as adversely affecting the electric system's reliability. The aging facilities include frayed overhead wires, insulators, cross-arms, transformers, and associated electrical distribution facilities that are beyond their useful life.

DISCUSSION:

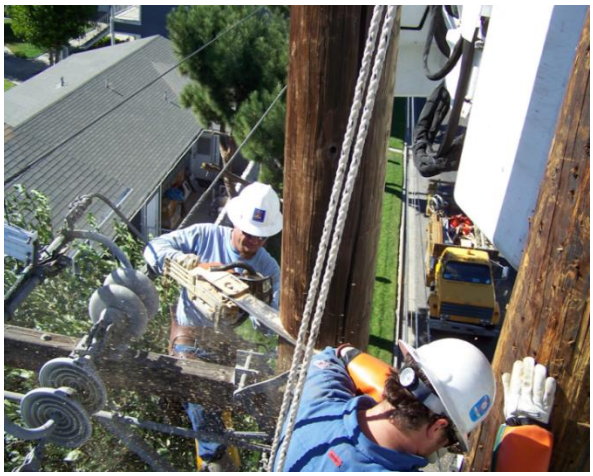
The Hunter Substation 4kV to 12kV Make-Ready for Circuits 26 Project (Project) will upgrade electric distribution facilities located in the vicinity north of Third Street, south of Columbia Avenue, west of Chicago Avenue and east of Main Street. The scope of work includes replacing thirty-four (34) utility poles, ninety-five (95) cross-arms, sixty-four (64) transformers, approximately 8,500 feet of overhead conductor, and related overhead distribution facilities. The new poles and infrastructure will comply with current construction standards in accordance with California State regulations in General Order 95.

This make-ready project is an important step in facilitating future voltage conversions and is the first phase in the replacement of aging 4kV distribution facilities with new 12kV electric distribution facilities to improve the electric system reliability and safety and improve power quality and service to customers in the area.

RPU electric field forces will perform the construction of this project, and no civil underground electric work is planned. Intermittent electric service disruptions will be coordinated during construction and advanced outage notifications will be issued to minimize the impact on customers.

Engineering staff are currently soliciting proposals from qualified crane contractors, as a portion of this project will require third party- crane services to work on difficult to access backyard poles and equipment during pole replacements. After completing the evaluation process, engineering staff will return to the Board of Public Utilities with a recommendation to award a bid at a later meeting.

Pole Replacement



4-12kV Conversion – Transformer and Cross-arm Replacement

The project/fiscal breakdown is as follows:

Project and Fiscal Breakdown					
Work Type	Performed By:			Amount ($):	% of Total:
Design	RPU Engineering			$587,850.87	17%
Construction – Electrical Work	RPU Field Forces	Labor	$2,151,028.09	$2,677,267.39	77.6%
		Equipment	$181,624.78		
		Materials	$344,614.52		
Contract - Crane Rental Services (estimate)	Contractor (TBD)			$168,000	4.9%
Contract Contingency (10%)				$16,800	.5%
Work Order Total:				**$3,449,918.26**	**100%**
Anticipated Start Date:					**September 2026**
Anticipated Duration:					**6 Months**

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact is $3,449,918.26. Sufficient funds are available in the Electric Fund Public Utilities Major 4/12 KV Conversion Account No. 6130100-470644.

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Certified as to availability of funds: Julie Nemes, Finance Director
Approved by: Gilbert Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: James Johnson, City Attorney

Attachments:
1. Project Site Map
2. Presentation