



Fact Sheet: Electrical and Fiber Communication Line Undergrounding

Location:

Monte Bello Nature Preserve – Palo Alto, CA

Dates:

September 2025-December 2025

Project Overview:

The City of Palo Alto Utilities Department will lead an undergrounding project to replace overhead electrical and fiber communication lines with underground infrastructure. This work is part of an effort to reduce the risk of wildfire ignitions and enhance visitor experience in the preserve.

Purpose of the Project:

- **Fire Safety:** The undergrounding of utility lines helps reduce the risk of wildfire ignitions that can be caused by downed power lines or sparks from overhead infrastructure. By placing power and communications lines underground, the project aligns with wildfire prevention measures in sensitive areas.
- **Improved visitor experience:** The infrastructure improvement will contribute to a more aesthetically pleasing and safer environment for visitors of the preserve by reducing the visual impact of overhead utility lines.

Scope of Work:

- **Undergrounding of Electric and Fiber Communication Lines:** Electric and fiber optic lines will be buried along Montebello Road to reduce fire risk and improve reliability of utility services. Work crews will utilize horizontal directional drilling and open cut trenching in certain areas to install conduit approximately 2 miles.

Impacts to Visitors:

- **Increased Truck Traffic:** Visitors to the nature preserve will notice increased truck and equipment traffic along Montebello Road as the work progresses.
- **Road and Trail Closures:** Sections of the road may be closed to pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicle traffic while the work progresses. Barriers and notices will be posted, visitors will be asked to use alternative routes.

Contact Information:

For more details or updates on the project, please contact:

Palo Alto Utilities Engineering Department

(650) 566-4500