

2036 SJC Comprehensive Plan Update

Utilities Element

County Council: June 23, 2020

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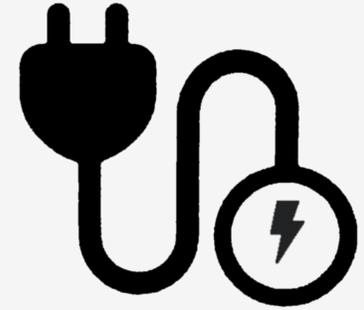
Utilities Element

Contents:

- Overview of Existing Conditions and Future Outlook
- Goals and Policies
- Synthesizes technical information in Appendix 8

Topics:

- Electricity
- Propane
- Telecommunications



Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

Changes highlighted in **Yellow** in draft

- Moved some policies that relate better to different goals
- Made some language more/less specific
- Some changes made with feedback from OPALCO

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 3, Line 39

Moved the following language to the Energy Outlook from Goal 7, Policy 3

The impacts from climate change, ~~the changing regulations around~~ carbon emission regulations, and the restructuring of the electric transmission market throughout the Pacific Northwest will impact the electric grid serving ~~San Juan~~ the County. This may increase ~~with~~ the potential for ~~increased~~ unplanned outages and rolling blackouts. The need for locally generated electricity from wind, solar, tidal, and other sources are vitally important to prevent economic disruption, and preserve ~~San Juan~~ the County's environment. Siting electric facilities serving locally generated electricity and its supporting infrastructure ~~will~~ can enable the deployment of an electric ferry system and ~~speed~~ the electrification of the state's transportation system.

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 4, Line 34

Added the names of providers to telecommunications overview

Fiber: The availability of fiber optic based... **Fiber is provided in San Juan County by Rock Island and Century Link.**

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP): Anyone with a reliable internet connection can... **Rock Island is the primary provider of VoIP in the County.**

Fixed Wireless - Long-Term Evolution (LTE): LTE is a standard for wireless broadband... **Fixed wireless is primarily provided by Rock Island in San Juan County.**

Fixed Wireless - Cellular Service: All major cellular carriers have coverage... **T-Mobile is the most extensive provider of cellular service in the County.**

Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS): The main provider of POTS is CenturyLink. Use of POTS has decreased in the recent years as consumers discontinue landline service or switch to VoIP.

Cable: Cable internet and television services are available from CenturyLink, Zito Media, and POGO Zone in parts of Friday Harbor and Orcas Island. Use of cable services is declining as fiber and wireless broadband becomes more popular.

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 7, Line 37

Goal 3. ~~Goal: To f~~ Foster predictability and timeliness in processing permit applications for utilities ~~new utility facilities or utility service work;~~ and to allow for necessary **development**, maintenance, repair, improvement, and expansion of utility facilities in a timely and efficient manner.

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 8, Line 20

Goal 4, Policy 1

Require Nnew utility ~~installations~~ distribution lines ~~to serve~~ for new development ~~should~~ to be installed underground, ~~except that~~ services for single-family residential construction on an existing parcel may connect with existing overhead utility facilities.

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 9, Line 30

Goal 6. Minimize the environmental impacts of electricity production and use **while promoting energy independence.**

Policy 2 ~~Support the transition toward energy independence from the mainland by.~~
Moved to goal 7, policy 7.

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 10, Line 29

Coordinate planning to allow for the appropriate location and siting of all necessary existing and future facilities including overhead, underground, and submarine transmission and distribution systems, substations, cable terminals, standby and utility~~large-scale~~ generation, and any other necessary equipment or structures. ~~Existing facilities are shown in Figure 1, below.~~

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 10, Line 32

2. Consider Identify electric power facilities to be as essential public facilities.

~~OPALCO suggested that this policy be replaced with:~~

~~The impacts from climate change, the changing regulations around carbon emission regulations, and the restructuring of the electric transmission market throughout the Pacific Northwest will impact the electric grid serving San Juan the County. This may increase with the potential for increased unplanned outages and rolling blackouts. The need for locally generated electricity from wind, solar, tidal, and other sources are vitally important to prevent economic disruption, and preserve San Juan the County's environment. The siting of electric facilities serving locally generated electricity and its supporting infrastructure will enable the deployment of an electric ferry system and speed the electrification of the state's transportation system. These types of development activities are to be addressed as Essential Public Facilities due to their importance serving the San Juan County island community.~~ **[Moved to Energy Outlook in section 8.3.1]**

Changes Since 3/28 Briefing

P. 11, Line 35

Goal 8, Policy 1

~~Consider~~ **Identify** ~~telecommunications facilities which are developed and operated expressly to carry out emergency services should be considered~~ as essential public facilities.

Feedback on Utilities Goals and Policies

Thank You