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Published March 18th, 2009

## Lafayette Circle Power Lines Undergrounded

By Cathy Tyson

Drivers around Lafayette Circle, be advised that P G & E will be tearing up the street to underground utility wires. "We want residents to know this will not increase their electric bill," said P G & E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian. She added that the city will not be footing the bill. The City of Lafayette currently receives P G & E infrastructure credits, called Rule 20A funds for the purpose of undergrounding significant overhead facilities, a recent staff report noted. Sarkissian was quick to point out that funds are like frequent flier miles - only to be used in exchange for projects - a rebate or refund to customers is not allowed. The entire cost of the project is expected to paid with Rule 20 A Funds.

Utility crews will be working one section at a time during daytime hours, there will be no nighttime or weekend work. The contractor will notify businesses in advance. "Although there will be some traffic control, the street will not be blocked off completely," said Sarkissian.

Construction is slated to begin in early April, and should be complete by summer, according to Sarkisian. Matt Luttropp, Associate Engineer with the City of Lafayette noted that part of the parameters of the job included that there will be no construction during the Art & Wine festival scheduled for September 19 and 20.

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