

Your Energy Dollars at Work – San Jose Undergrounding and Sectionalizing – Video Transcript

We're in San Jose's Almaden Valley in a residential neighborhood, and we have an exciting project that's going to benefit customers here in the Almaden Valley. We are working on a reliability project on our Hicks 2101 circuit that will take it out of a high fire risk area and provide more reliability for these customers. And so we've engineered a solution that is going to enable us to continue with the wildfire protection, but reduce the outages this neighborhood is experiencing.

So what this project is going to do is going to-- as you can see, the lines come into here, it's going to take 6,500 feet of line currently, and we're going to underground that. And in addition, we're going to install sectionalized devices so that when EPS does get triggered, these customers won't be impacted from the EPSS trigger.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Part of the project is once we're completed, we'll actually be able to remove, over time, 15 towers that will no longer be needed. So we'll be able to reduce the maintenance on those towers because the lines will be underground. When we do have an outage, we typically have to send our patrolmen out, and they to patrol the entire circuit so they can find the outage.

So the less circuit they have to patrol, the less time we're having to do that. So there's multiple benefits long term. And then with any new infrastructure, it's newer. It's going to be more reliable, lower cost. Every dollar that we receive from our customers, we feel an obligation to make sure that we spend it in the right way to deliver the most benefits.

And so this is a great project to prove that, that we've heard their concerns, and we're driving real value by providing a unique reliability experience while still being able to ensure that we protect against fire.

It's a dream come true. Not a lot of people can say, hey, I work here, I live here, and then every time you go out, you get to see your project, or you get to see the improvement that you have been working on, and then that's rewarding.

I think our customers have a great appreciation for the safety concerns that we are all facing in California, and climate is getting more extreme. Our weather conditions are becoming more severe. And so I think they appreciate and understand the efforts that we've had to take to make the system safer.

And I want them to know that we are investing in the future of this grid. We are making sure that our grid is not only safe, but it's reliable, and that they can count on us to continue to serve them for years and decades to come.

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