

A History of UUD 48: Grizzly Peak/Summit

- 1992 **UUD 48** established by the Berkeley City Council.
- 1992 Fallen power line causes five Berkeley homes to be destroyed by fire on Wildcat Canyon Road.
- Street Lighting Assessment District formed for **UUD 48** and yearly assessments paid by parcel owners via property tax bills in anticipation of immanent utility undergrounding. Assessments are collected but nothing happens pending **UUD48** construction.
- 2001 PG&E declares bankruptcy as a result of short-term energy contract liabilities (remember ENRON?). As a result, CPUC reduces annual credits to Rule 20A program by 50% while electric utility consumer rates increase to cover losses.
- In early 2000s "Park Hills UUD" and "Miller/Stevenson/Grizzly Peak UUD47" are completed as Rule20A projects and Thousand Oaks Heights UUD is completed as a Rule 20B project. After UUD47 is completed, Rule 20A funding is said by the City of Berkeley to be insufficient to start **UUD48**.
- ~2005 Assessment District for UUD Street Lighting fully paid. Annual billings on Parcel Tax Bills cease. Currently all UUD 48 Street Lighting Assessment District payments are held in City of Berkeley General Fund pending UUD 48 construction. Yes, it's still held in the general fund earning next to nothing! ... even after almost 3 decades!
- 2010 PG&E San Bruno Gas Pipeline explosion resulting from poor gas pipeline maintenance practices. Kills 8, Injures 58, Destroys 38 homes.
- 2015 Berkeley citizens protest poor maintenance of PG&E's Glendale Substation.
- 2015 Extensive build out of pole supported telecom systems continues. Berkeley Citizens question why no further progress is being made to underground pole supported utilities. Berkeley Citizens for Utility Undergrounding (BCUU) is established.
- ~2015 City of Berkeley PWD indicates that insufficient funds are available to proceed with **UUD48** primarily as a result of PG&E 2001 bankruptcy and the resulting halving of Berkeley's annual Rule 20A credit allotments from ~\$1M/year to ~\$500K/year.
- 2016 Citizens protest telecom's long delays in the removal of redundant utility poles supporting telecom build out. A few poles are removed but many remain for years as redundant poles or pole sections.
- 2016 BCUU reviews CPUC annual report on 20A credit accounts and finds that sufficient funds are available. Furthermore \$2.5M from a five year advance "for the asking" could routinely be granted. Currently the total available unused funding is in

the range of \$12M ... more than sufficient to accomplish **UUD48** by PG&E's own estimates.

- 2017 Berkeley residents become increasingly concerned about wildfire risk and vegetation management along with continued increase in pole supported power and telecom cables.
- 2017 Joint **UUD48** Community/PG&E/PWD meeting to provide project status

- 2018 Joint **UUD48** Community/PG&E/PWD meeting to provide project status/discuss street lighting options. Project is forecast to go out to bid and start construction in 2019. Comments arise regarding **UUD48** right of way issues and issues with installation of Sonic telecom cables within the designated boundaries of **UUD48**.

Note

As a matter of business policy, it's reported that Sonic will not install their telecom lines underground. Issuing of the permit was apparently an error by the City since the UUD was a matter of record at the time the City issued the Sonic permit.)

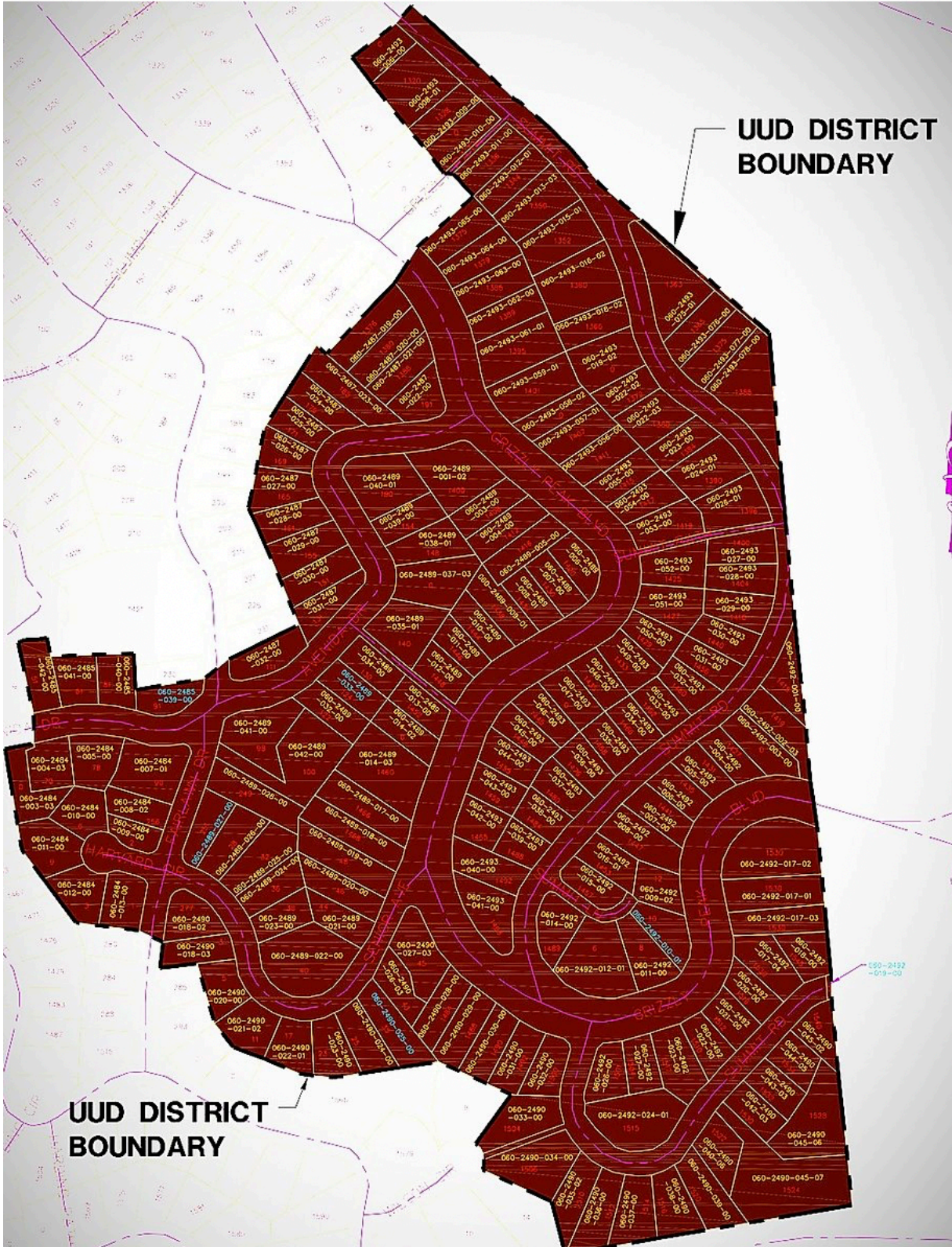
The current **UUD48** design does not provide for Sonic telecommunication conduits.

To accommodate Sonic in **UUD48** at this point would probably raise project cost significantly and cause years more delay due to redesign efforts. Note the delay costs alone are >\$500K/year.

- January 2019 PG&E files again for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy this time as result liabilities associated with power line initiated wildfires in 2017 and 2018.
- 2019 Joint Community/PG&E/PWD meeting to provide project status. Project forecast to bid early 2020.
- Early 2020 PWD advises that because of right-of-way issues with 2 parcels the **UUD48** forecast bid date will be moved to Late 2020.
- Currently the **UUD 48** project is incurring ~\$500K/year in delay costs as a result of construction cost inflation (4% according to CoB) and extended overhead by PG&E and CoB. The last publicly announced **UUD48** project budget (~2018) was ~\$8M. PG&E indicated that it would be constructed at the same time that PG&E performs a ~\$2.0M gas pipeline replacement project throughout **UUD48**. For funding purposes the cost of the gas pipeline replacement project is NOT part of the **UUD 48** Rule 20A project.

*Corrections & Enhancements to this history are invited. Direct them to:
info@berkeleyundergrounding.com*

Utility Undergrounding District UUD 48, Grizzly Peak/Summit



UUD DISTRICT
BOUNDARY

UUD DISTRICT
BOUNDARY