



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 9j

MEETING DATE: July 6, 2026

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**Date: July 6, 2026**

**From: Chris Lamm, Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230**

**Subject: Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Revocable License Agreement with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Revocable License Agreement with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Burlingame has maintained and utilized portions of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) right-of-way adjacent to California Drive for several decades pursuant to various agreements dating back to 1964. The right-of-way was originally acquired by the Spring Valley Water Company as part of its regional water transmission system and became the property of the City and County of San Francisco when it acquired the Spring Valley Water Company and its assets in 1930. Today, the property is managed by the SFPUC, although no SFPUC distribution assets are in these parcels. Various agreements between the City and SFPUC have authorized improvements including roadway widening, public parking, landscaping, and installation of a municipal water main. Over time, additional public facilities, including two Public Works corporation yards and a SamTrans bus stop, were established within the corridor. While these facilities have supported City operations and public transportation for many years, not all existing improvements were incorporated into previous agreements.

In recent years, the City has advanced the California Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project to improve safety, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity along the California Drive corridor. Because portions of the project are located within SFPUC-owned property, the City has worked with SFPUC to develop a comprehensive license agreement that authorizes construction of the bicycle and pedestrian improvements and formalizes the City's ongoing use and maintenance of existing public improvements within the corridor.

The proposed Revocable License Agreement supersedes prior agreements governing the corridor and establishes a single, comprehensive agreement that defines the rights and responsibilities of both agencies moving forward.

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**DISCUSSION**

The proposed Revocable License Agreement authorizes the City's continued use and maintenance of approximately 209,000 square feet of SFPUC right-of-way adjacent to California Drive. The agreement consolidates several historical agreements into a single license while recognizing existing public improvements that have been maintained by the City for many years. These improvements include California Drive roadway improvements, the Bellevue Avenue public parking lot, the Burlingame Avenue bus stop, two Public Works corporation yards, the existing 10-inch water main beneath Broadway, landscaping, and associated maintenance activities.

The agreement also authorizes construction, operation, and maintenance of improvements associated with the California Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project, including a new shared-use bicycle and pedestrian trail, sidewalk widening, curb ramp and driveway reconstruction, relocation of street lighting and traffic signal infrastructure, parking lot reconfiguration, and installation of new landscape buffers. Construction activities will be performed in accordance with plans previously reviewed and approved by SFPUC.

Under the terms of the agreement, SFPUC retains ownership of the property and grants the City a revocable license for the authorized public improvements. The City will remain responsible for ongoing maintenance of the licensed areas, including landscaping, vegetation management, litter removal, graffiti removal, roadway maintenance, and upkeep of the facilities.

Execution of the agreement resolves longstanding property management issues, establishes a clear framework for future coordination between the City and SFPUC, and provides the property rights necessary to complete the next phase of the California Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The proposed Revocable License Agreement requires payment of an annual license fee of \$30,296, subject to a four percent annual increase. Funding for the annual license fee is available within the Public Works Department operating budget, and future increases will be incorporated into annual budget requests.

Exhibits:

- Resolution
- SFPUC Revocable License Agreement