



THE RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC Canada V0N 1B4
www.whistler.ca

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August 4, 2020

Name
Address
City
Postal code
PID:

Re: Petition for White Gold Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities
[Please Return by deadline, 4:30pm, September 15, 2020.](#)

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) has initiated this formal petition process after receiving a letter dated September 5, 2019 from a majority of the property owners in the White Gold subdivision. The letter requested that a formal petition process be undertaken to approve a project to move all overhead utilities (Hydro, Shaw and Telus) in the White Gold subdivision, underground. The homeowner letter listed a number of advantages for property owners by proceeding with this work including:

- Reduced wildfire risk (downed powerlines can spark fires)
- Reduced risk of power outages during storms and strong winds
- Enhanced aesthetics by modernizing the neighborhood and improving sight lines, and
- The availability of a BC Hydro grant to help fund the costs of construction.

Work completed by the project team since the September 5 2019 property owners' letter to council identified the additional benefit to completing this now; the savings realized by delaying the repaving required from the recent water main upgrade project until this utility undergrounding project is complete.

The attached is a formal petition to the RMOW Council to establish the White Gold Utilities Undergrounding Local Service Area Bylaw and associated Loan Authorization Bylaw. This petition process is required to confirm majority support for the project, authorize the RMOW to borrow the amount outlined in the petition and to recover the project costs through an addition to annual property taxes.

The scope of this project includes:

- All construction on public land to enable the undergrounding of overhead utility services,
- Removal of existing overhead wires and poles from public lands, and
- Project administrative costs.

The project scope does not include work required on private lands (the area within the parcel/lot boundaries) or to connect to the new underground service. Refer to the project website www.whistler.ca/WhiteGoldUtilities for more details.

If this petition achieves the required 50% support to pass, the costs to bury the overhead utilities on public lands will be shared equally between the property parcels within the White Gold subdivision. The annual cost per parcel for the Local Service Area will be amortized over 30 years and added to annual property taxes as a separate line item labeled 'local service tax'. The cost is estimated to be \$1,130 per year per property for 10 (ten) years after which the lending rate, and the amount to be charged per property, will be evaluated and adjusted every 5 (five) years. This estimated cost will be



finalized only after the completion of the project and actual costs are known. This amount will appear on the annual parcel tax statement starting the year after the work is completed. **The first homeowner payment for the 'Local Service Area Tax' is currently anticipated to be in July 2024.**

Owners must fully complete the petition, sign it and ensure it is received at the RMOW by 4:30 pm, September 15, 2020 in order to be counted as a valid petition in support.

Note: If a signed copy of the petition is not returned, not fully completed, or returned after the deadline, it will be counted as not in favour.

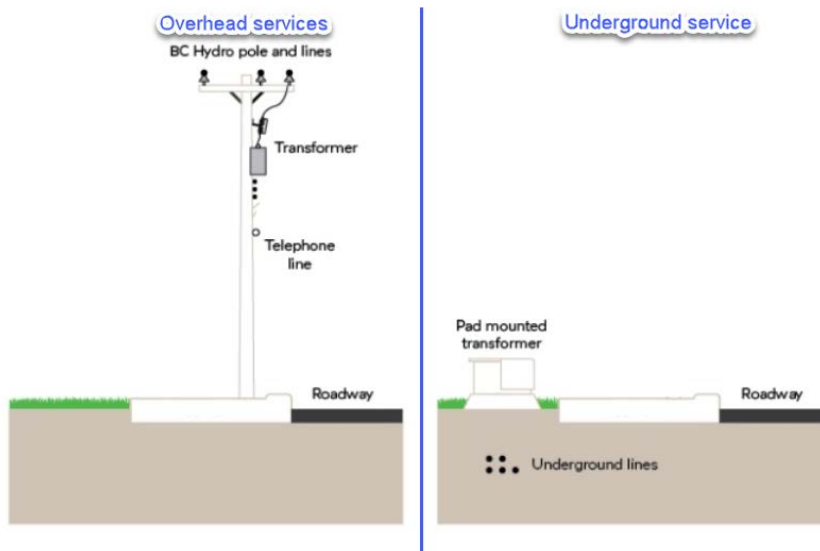
The complete and signed petition can be emailed to whitegoldunderground@gmail.com or sent in the mail or by courier to the RMOW.

An information session is planned for August 29nd, 2020 information regarding this session will be provided on the project website www.whistler.ca/WhiteGoldUtilities.

If you have any questions regarding this petition, please forward them to the Project Manager at: whitegoldunderground@gmail.com

Yours sincerely
Christine Boehringer,
Project Manager

Diagram 1: BC Hydro image of converting utilities from overhead to underground



Included in this package:

- Instructions for completing and submitting your petition response,
- The petition
- Plan diagram of properties included in this petition - Schedule A



PETITION INSTRUCTIONS

You must complete and submit the attached petition, as instructed, if you wish this project to proceed.

The petition must be approved by at least 50 percent of the owners representing at least 50 percent of the assessed value of land and improvements that would be subject to the Local Service Area Tax.

- The persons signing the petition must be the owners of the parcels. If 2 or more persons are owners of a parcel, they will be considered as one owner only. There is only one petition (one vote) per parcel, and;
- **The petition must be signed by a majority of the parcel owners, for the petition to be counted.**

For example:

- If there are 2 owners on title, 2 owners are considered to be a majority
- If there are 3 owners on title, 2 owners are considered to be a majority
- If there are 4 owners on title, 3 owners are considered to be a majority

Note: A Power of Attorney (POA) will be accepted if POA has been granted over property and affairs of a property owner. Proof of POA will be required.

- The majority of owners of a parcel are required to sign the same petition page; please coordinate this with your fellow owners. One method to acquire all signatures on one page is to scan and email the page to each owner and the final owner emails the entire petition with all signatures to whitegoldunderground@gmail.com.

In order to be valid the RMOW must receive the completed and property owner *signed* petition by 4:30 pm, September 15, 2020. Petitions received after the deadline (even if post-marked on or prior to September 15, 2020) will not be counted.

If you prefer to submit your originally signed petition by hand delivery, mail or courier, deliver it to:

The Resort Municipality of Whistler
Utility Undergrounding Petition
c/o Legislative Services
Resort Municipality of Whistler,
4325 Blackcomb Way,
Whistler, B.C., V8E 0X5

The RMOW is open 8:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays). These days and hours may be affected by Covid-19 closures, please check the RMOW website for hours.



PETITION

I/We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) to establish a local service area for the relocation of overhead utility services in the White Gold neighborhood underground.

To commence the proposed service, borrowing by the RMOW will be required to finance the final design and construction of the utility services relocation. The method for the RMOW to recover the costs of borrowing shall be a parcel tax imposed in accordance with Part 24, Division 4.3 of the *Local Government Act*

The RMOW has secured a beautification grant through BC Hydro to fund 1/3 of the total BC Hydro only costs up to a maximum value of \$1.2 million dollars. In addition, the RMOW has delayed the road resurfacing, from the water main replacement project completed in 2019, pending the outcome of this petition, which has the effect of savings to the property owners. The remainder of project costs, including the balance of BC Hydro cost, TELUS and Shaw costs will be financed through borrowing:

- I/we understand that the currently estimated annual cost per parcel for the Local Service Area is \$1,130 per year per property for 10 (ten) years after which the lending rate, and the amount to be charged per property, will be evaluated and adjusted every 5 (five) years thereafter. This estimated cost will be finalized only after the completion of the project and actual costs are known. This amount will appear on the annual parcel tax statement starting the year after the work is completed.
- I/we hereby acknowledge and agree that \$5,520,075 (maximum upset limit) may be borrowed by the RMOW to finance the design and relocation of the overhead utilities to underground within the White Gold neighborhood by creation of a Loan Authorization (White Gold Utility Undergrounding) Bylaw. The Bylaw number will be issued and provided to homeowners once the petition passes and RMOW council approves the petition.
- I/we understand that all parcels in the service area would be required to connect to the new underground services during the construction phase, estimated to be April 2022 to November 2023, and the cost, if any, to reconnect private dwellings to the new underground services and any property repairs such as landscaping and hard surface repair or replacement, are to be borne by the individual property owner. The boundaries of the proposed service area and the parcels that shall be included in the local service area are shown on the image attached.
- I/we understand that any charges on private lands, for electricians, contractors, disconnection and reconnection fees, are not part of the service area tax value and if applicable will be coordinated directly by the home owner, and paid directly to the service provider by the home owner.



PETITION

In order for this petition to be certified as a sufficient and valid petition:

1. Petition must be completed in its entirety,
2. At least 50% of the parcels in the proposed service area must be in favor of moving forward with the petition,
3. Approved petitions must have a total tax assessed value of at least 50% of the total tax assessed property value in the proposed Service Area,
4. The persons signing the petition must be the owners of parcels. If 2 or more persons are owners of a parcel, they must be considered as one owner only. There is only one petition (one vote) per parcel,
- 5. The majority of owners of a parcel are required to sign the same petition page: please coordinate this with your fellow owners, and;**
6. The emailed signed and scanned or hard copy petition document must be received by the RMOW on or before 4:30 p.m. on September 15, 2020.

By providing an email address, I/we consent to receive future White Gold Utility Undergrounding Project communications via email and understand that under the Freedom of Information Act my personal information will remain confidential and will only be used for purposes of communicating to me about this project.

Parcel Identifier Number (PID)			
Street Address			
Owners name (mandatory)	Signature (mandatory)	Daytime Phone number	Email address (required only if you consent to receive future project communication via email)

Schedule A

