



Electric System Improvements Coming to Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island

Improvements Will Reduce Blackouts and Enhance System Reliability

Background

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is the energy provider on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island. The Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) owns the electric infrastructure, which the SFPUC uses to deliver power to residents and businesses on both islands.

Typically, electric infrastructure has a lifespan of 25-30 years. The infrastructure on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island, which TIDA inherited from the U.S. Navy, ranges from 40-50 years in age. Because the Treasure Island infrastructure is old, diagnostic and repair work takes longer than it would for a typical power outage.

Power outages on the island stem from a variety of causes, including fallen tree limbs, birds or other wildlife, and malfunctioning equipment due to the age of the system.

To address island outages, Treasure Island Community Development, TIDA, and the SFPUC are partnering to make electric infrastructure improvements to reduce the frequency and duration of outages and the number of customers affected when outages do occur. Improvements will be completed by January 2021.

Improving System Reliability and Response

Treasure Island Community Development (TICD) is the master developer for Treasure Island and coordinates with TIDA on its design and construction activities. Together, TICD and the SFPUC have begun making electric system changes on Treasure Island to improve electricity service for all customers. The major improvements include constructing a new switchyard and installing new switchgear.

These near term infrastructure investments will enhance system reliability, decrease the number of blackouts, and reduce the duration and number of customers affected when there is a power outage.

TICD will oversee construction of the switchyard, a fenced-off area where the main electrical equipment will be located. Upon completion of the new switchyard, the SFPUC will install new switchgear, which is equipment that helps detect an outage, isolate the affected area, and provide safe and reliable operation of the electric system.



Site of the new switchyard on Treasure Island. Construction began in June 2020.

Proactive Steps to Improve Existing System

In addition to new infrastructure, the SFPUC continues to take proactive steps to maintain, operate, and repair the electric system on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island. **These actions will help reduce the number of outages as well as the length of outages:**

- Proactively trimming tree branches and other vegetation
- Replacing poles and ordering spare parts in advance
- Conducting regular inspections of the distribution system
- Installing reclosers to improve system resiliency
- Installing fault indicators to speed up repair time

Electric System Improvements and Timeline

Infrastructure upgrades and equipment replacement are underway, and Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island customers can expect electric system improvements to be completed by January 2021.

Residents and businesses can expect minimal disruption during construction. No work will be performed at night and no roads will be blocked or closed during construction.

Improvement Project	Outcome	Timeline
New Switchgear and Overhead Lines	Will improve system reliability by replacing the outdated switchgear and increasing the number of electrical circuits. This will help isolate outages to only part of the island and fewer customers will be affected when they do occur.	Construction Start: Underway Construction Finish: January 2021
Installation of Reclosers	Can prevent power outages caused by temporary events like bird strikes or fallen tree limbs. Fewer customers will be affected when outages do happen, and power will be restored sooner.	Construction Start: June 2020 Construction Finish: June 2020
Fault Indicators	Reduces the time it takes to find the source of an outage, decreasing the time required to restore power.	Construction Start: July 2020 Construction Finish: August 2020

Questions?

Contact:

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission at:

(415) 554-3233 or email peter.gallotta@SFWater.org

Treasure Island Development Authority at:

(415) 274-0660 or email TIDA@SFgov.org

