



PIPE USERS GROUP Northern California

MINUTES

November 22, 2005

Attendees:

Cindy Preuss	Harris & Associates	cpreuss@harris-assoc.com
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Daniel Wilkins	Harris & Associates	dwilkins@harris-assoc.com
Kyle Carbert	Harris & Associates	kcarbert@harris-assoc.com
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Andrew Page	SRCSD	pagea@saccounty.net
Jennifer Glynn	Brown & Caldwell	jglynn@brwncald.com
Jonathan Lee	WVSD	jonlee@westvalleysan.org
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My Huynh	CSD-1	huynhm@saccounty.net
Rex Ganding	Winzler and Kelly	rexganding@w-and-k.com
Allen Law	City of Oakland	atlaw@oaklandnet.com
Alan Chan	City of Oakland	achan@oaklandnet.com
Anna Chrissanthis	Kennedy/Jenks	annachrissanthis@kennedyjenks.com

Presentation: “Call Before You Dig – Recent Changes & Standards,” by Donald Heyer, Operations and Public Relations Manager with USA North.

USA North covers Central and Northern California and Nevada (they lost Hawaii from the region recently), covering 216,318 square miles. One must call 1-800-227-2600 before excavating (public OR private) lest be assessed a \$50,000 fine.

This presentation discussed changes to CA Government Code 4216 (what must be done when you call before you dig) and Cal-OSHA Title 8 Section 1541 (protocol followed prior to and during construction).

CA Government Code 4216 Highlights:

- Change limiting amount of time inquiry i.d. number is valid to 28 days.
- Change stating additional time may be granted beyond 28 days when mutually agreed between excavator and any member operator with subsurface installation in the area.
- Change encouraging marking using color code guide of USA North
- Change stipulating hand tool excavations before power-driven equipment when determining exact location of subsurface installations, and only allowing vacuum excavation devices if there is express written mutual agreement between operator and excavator.
- Change pertaining to acceptance of liabilities and responsibilities contained in the regional notification center law by signing an equipment rental agreement assigning such liability.

Cal OSHA Title 8 Section 1541 Highlights:

- Modify “Underground” installations to “Subsurface” installations.
- Add language pertaining to commencement of excavation work only once all known owner/operators of subsurface installations have responded positively.
- Add language to require an on-site meeting with excavation contractor, utility owner/operator, and locator to verify location of high priority subsurface installations.
- Add language to stipulate only qualified persons shall be allowed to perform subsurface installation locating activities.
- Add language to specify that exact locations of installations shall be determined by means that will prevent damage to [the existing] subsurface installation.

One thing of particular interest is USA North’s position on horizontal directional drilling (HDD). USA North does not endorse HDD since installation depths are too deep (often to avoid congestion of utilities at shallower depths) to track electronically to document the installation location properly on record drawings. Also, the cost is too much if/when repair excavations are needed in the future.

Notes for excavators to remember:

1. 2-Day notice is required
2. White paint is required for marking proposed facility (see pg 11 of guideline brochure)
3. Description must be adequate for utility owners/operators to know scope.

Three leading causes for excavation injury, death, or damage identified by National Transportation Safety Board:

1. No One-Call made
2. Failure to hand-dig*
3. Failure to quickly notify emergency response crews when necessary

* USA North doesn’t believe 50-100’-spaced potholes are enough to catch grade and/or alignment changes; must expose to within 24” horizontally of existing facility’s outer diameter.

If a utility is not mapped by the utility owner, the utility owner is liable.

Emergencies are exempted from the law so as long as classified as an emergency (see pg 22 brochure), no need to call USA North.

Handouts included:

- Color Code Guide for Underground Facility Markings
- USA North’s California Excavation Manual
- “Changes to California Government Code 4216,” effective January 1, 2005
- Stakeholder Letter to OSHA Re: Subsurface Safety & Incident Prevention Committee Recommendations for Safe Excavations Near Underground Facilities, dated September 26, 2005
- Mini USA North calendar

Handouts will not be made available on the PUG website attached to these minutes, as they were not given in electronic form.

Executive:

Non-profit application status: The Declaration of Incorporation should be in Jonathan’s hands today. After review it will be submitted to the State.

Treasury status: Current treasury balance is \$35,349.

Task Group Reports:

Special Meeting – ½ Day Legal: Jonathan has found two lawyers willing to give a presentation on construction laws. We're looking at approximately 6 hours including lunch. Fees will be discussed/decided upon later. We'll revisit this for scheduling and specifics at the next meeting.

NASTT 8-Hour Course(s): We would like PUG to sponsor HDD, pipe bursting, laterals, and/or CIPP courses here through WESTT. Jonathan Lee and Steve Krauthaim of PUG have both attended a pipe bursting course held at the WESTT conference and feel it was valuable. Jonathan has put over 100,000 feet of pipe in the ground by bursting and he says he still learned a lot. We'll revisit this for scheduling at the next meeting as well.

Seminar:

Member/Non-Member Registration Fees: The Executive Committee is looking at lowering the seminar registration fees for members as an added benefit of PUG membership.

Announcement in TT Magazine: To appear in December's issue.

Keynote Speaker: John Hemphill, Executive Director of the North American Society of Trenchless Technology, has agreed to be this year's keynote speaker.

PUG Banner: Allen investigated the costs and found it is \$200 for a vinyl banner with a one-week turnaround. Dirk offered to manipulate the logo for creation of a 3' x 10' banner, which would be a better size for draping in the large room where the seminar will be held.

Call for Papers: Get those papers in! Deadline is December.

General Discussion:

December PUG Meeting: Cindy will advise whether there will be a meeting or not due to the holidays, but January's meeting will be held per the usual schedule.

Western Regional No-Dig: There was excellent representation by PUG at this conference held in mid-November. Next year's conference will possibly be near here, and will again be held around November. Keep your ears open as we'd love to see even more PUG members at the conference!

Field Trip: There is a potential field trip in the planning stages to visit Gladding, McBean (clay pipe manufacturer) in Lincoln, CA. This would replace one of our monthly meetings; target is May/June.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held **TUESDAY, January 17, 2006** at the offices of Brown and Caldwell. The meeting will be on planning out the next year's presentations, ½-day workshops, trainings, and field trips. Please come and bring your ideas and areas of interest so we may tailor our calendar to the member's interests and curiosities. Please call (925) 210-2307 or e-mail Jennifer Glynn (jglynn@brwncald.com) to RSVP.