

California Underground Facilities

Safe Excavation Board

Item # 5

Agenda Item – Staff Report

Date: April 19, 2018
To: Members, Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board
From: Jason Neyer, Analyst
Subject: Annual Education and Outreach Meeting

Background

(Pursuant to Government Code section 4216.17):

(a) The board shall annually convene a meeting for the following purposes:

- (1) To understand the existing needs for education and outreach, including to those groups with the highest awareness and education needs, including, but not limited to, homeowners.*
- (2) To facilitate discussion on how to coordinate existing education and outreach efforts with state and local government agencies, California operators, regional notification centers, and trade associations that fund outreach and education programs that encourage safe excavation practices.*
- (3) To determine the areas in which additional education and outreach efforts may be targeted through use, upon appropriation by the Legislature, of the moneys in the Safe Energy Infrastructure and Excavation Fund pursuant to subdivision (c).*

Discussion

Having a current understanding of education and outreach needs is essential in making the underground excavation community safer. The purpose of this annual meeting is to better understand which groups have the highest needs for education and outreach, how to coordinate education efforts and how to use fines from penalties on additional education and outreach.

To better understand which groups, have the highest education and outreach needs, staff created a survey with the assistance of members Del Toro and Bianchini. Data collected from the survey will help determine which groups to focus on, what type of educational resources are preferred, and the type of communication desired. This survey is available to those unable to attend the April 19th, 2018 meeting, making their opinions heard. Results of the survey will be discussed at the meeting.

The survey may be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S6STP6C>

Two grants from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) are an opportunity to coordinate efforts while directing funds toward education & outreach. Neither grant has been awarded to a California organization in several years (2010-2016). PHMSA makes State Damage Prevention Grant awards of up to \$100,000 annually to improve damage prevention programs and One Call Grant awards of up to \$60,000 annually to promote underground damage prevention laws. The Board will facilitate a conversation on coordinating efforts on these two grants.

Civil penalties from investigations will be the source of funds used on additional areas of education and outreach. Realistically, funds from this source may not be available for a few years. Nevertheless, it is never too soon to discuss the impact this funding could have on our efforts.