



San Francisco Public Works
General – Director’s Office
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Public Works Order No: 208323

MICROTRENCHING STANDARD

ADOPTING MICROTRENCHING STANDARD PLANS NOS.
120,964 THROUGH 120,965 and ALLOWING THE CITY ENGINEER TO GRANT
EXCEPTIONS.

I. PURPOSE

Public Works Code section 2.4.52 prohibits the use of rock wheel and trenchless technology and requires that no single excavation site be longer than 1,200 feet in length without prior written approval of the Director.

In compliance with California Government Code 65964.5, the Director of Public Works adopts the following:

- A. Microtrenching Standard.
- B. Procedures for requesting the use of the Microtrenching Standard.
- C. Procedures for granting exceptions or accepting alternatives to the Microtrenching Standard.
- D. Guidelines for approving requests for an exception to the Microtrenching Standard.

II. MICROTRENCHING STANDARD

- A. This Order hereby adopts the Microtrenching Standard as shown on standard plans numbered:

File No.
120,964
120,965

- B. Microtrenching Notes (File No. 120,964) sets forth the requirements to consider a segment for microtrenching, the excavation, fill and restoration requirements, vaults, and service connections requirements, microtrenching exclusions, utility clearances and typical permit requirements.

- C. Microtrenching Details and Tables (File No. 120,965) sets forth two excavation details that allow microtrenching in the public right-of-way to install telecommunication conduits.
 - 1. Standard Detail 1 requires readily available construction materials (hot mix asphalt and cement sand slurry) and allows trench widths up to 4 inches with City Engineer's approval.
 - 2. Standard Detail 2 requires fiber-reinforced cementitious material to reduce the restoration area and allows trench widths up to 2 inches.
- D. Permits issued after the effective date of this Public Works Order shall require compliance with the Microtrenching Standard.

III. PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF THE MICROTRENCHING STANDARD

- A. Request for the use of microtrenching shall be made in writing as part of the excavation permit application. The permit application shall also include the following:
 - 1. Limits of microtrenching clearly shown on the site plans and related required information under the permit section of Microtrenching Notes plan.
 - 2. Each microtrenching street segment identified on the online permit application.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING EXCEPTIONS TO THE MICROTRENCHING STANDARD

- A. The City Engineer may grant exceptions to the Microtrenching Standard on a case-by-case basis.
- B. A request for a microtrenching exception must be submitted in writing to the City Engineer and shall include the following:
 - 1. An explanation of why use of the Microtrenching Standard is infeasible;
 - 2. A statement detailing which portions of the standard are proposed to be altered and how they will be altered;

3. The name of the person and/or organization requesting the exception;
 4. The contact person's name, phone number and address;
 5. The location of the requested exception to the Microtrenching Standard; and
 6. A detailed dimensioned plan and photographs documenting existing physical constraints at the location of the request for an exception.
- C. Public Works will only consider an exception request if it is made in conjunction with a specific permit or project including, but not limited to, a street improvement permit, a re-paving or excavation contract, a utility excavation permit, or any other applicable permits.

V. GUIDELINES FOR APPROVING AN EXCEPTION TO THE MICROTRENCHING STANDARD

- A. The City Engineer may grant an exception to the Microtrenching Standard only if compliance with the Microtrenching Standard is infeasible. The City Engineer may impose additional conditions on the grant of an exception.

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