



# Appendix P

## Electrical Undergrounding Requirements and Variance Request

**City of Bellevue**  
**Electrical Undergrounding Requirements and Variance Request Procedure**

**Updated: November 27, 2024**

**Purpose:**

This procedure ensures compliance with the city's undergrounding policy, requiring all new electrical distribution and service lines to be underground in accordance with Comprehensive Plan Policies [UT-68](#) and [UT-69](#), and the PSE Franchise Agreement.

**Policy:**

All development and alteration projects are required to underground the portion of the electrical system in the public right of way. However, exemptions from this requirement may be granted under specific circumstances.

**Exemptions:**

Undergrounding requirements may be waived for the following scenarios:

1. **Electrical Panel Upgrades:**

Upgrading an existing electrical service panel without the installation of an additional service line, and without any work on the structure.

2. **Service Line Repairs or Upgrades:**

- Repairs or replacement of existing overhead service lines due to age, damage, or natural causes (e.g., falling trees).
- Relocation of service lines for structural safety without increasing service capacity.

3. **Modifications to an Existing Structure:**

Additions or renovations to a structure that increases the total square footage by less than one-third.

**Variance Requests:**

If your project qualifies under the exemptions listed above, you may apply for a variance. Variance requests must be submitted to the Right of Way team for review and final approval by the Right of Way Manager.