



CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD
INVESTIGATION DIVISION
INVESTIGATION REPORT



Report Date:	Case Number:	Notification Date:
12/14/20	20SA01304	11/24/20

Reporting Party Information:

James Wingate
USA North 811
4005 Port Chicago Hwy #100 Concord CA 94520

Subject(s) of Investigation:

City of Chico
Erik Gustafson, Director, Public Works
PO Box 3420 Chico, CA 95927

Prior Relevant Board Actions:

None

Date and Time of Incident:

Ongoing violation

Location of the Incident:

CITY OF CHICO INCORPORATED AREA.

Ticket No.:

N/A

Ticket Type:

N/A

Ticket Issued:

N/A

Legal Start:

N/A

Operator:

City of Chico

Excavator:

N/A

Facility Type Damaged:

N/A

Notification

Notification number:C203290001

Fatalities and Injuries:

Fatalities: 0

Injuries: 0

Damages:

N/A

Responding Agencies:

N/A

Scene Description

City of Chico Incorporated Area, approximately 27 square miles


Summary of Investigation

On 11/17/2020 SI Ehrgott received a complaint via email from James Wingate, Director, USA North 811. On 11/17/2020 SI Ehrgott spoke with Mr. Wingate regarding the case. Mr. Wingate stated that the City of Chico had begun their application process in early 2020 but never followed through with it. Mr. Wingate stated that their customer team reached out to a Skyler Lipski, Public Works Manager, who stated that the City had not approved funding for a full-time L&M staff member so the membership application was put on hold. Mr. Wingate stated he would email me contact details for Mr. Lipski and an email chain regarding the complaint (Exhibit 1).

On 11/23/2020 SI Ehrgott spoke with Skyler Lipski, Public Works Manager, City of Chico, and discussed the complaint filed by USA North 811. Mr. Lipski stated that the City was in the process of joining USA North and had a budget proposal for a full-time L&M person in February. Mr. Lipski stated that the City did not approve that budget request because of Covid-19 funding worries after the pandemic became prominent in March. Mr. Lipski also stated that the city has a management software that will sync with USA North once they join and that USA North stated they could receive around 24,000 tickets per year for that service area, hence the request for the full-time L&M position. Mr. Lipski stated that the City mainly has drainage facilities and electrical/data lines for the City's traffic system and streetlights. There is no pressurized sewer or water lines owned by the City that provide services to the public. SI Ehrgott explained that the City of Chico is in violation of GC 4216.1 and would be receiving a notice of probable violation which would begin the enforcement process. Mr. Lipski stated he understood completely and gave me the name and address of the Director of Public Works, Erik Gustafson, to who the letter should be addressed. Mr. Lipski further added that he hopes the letter will spur the City into approving the L&M budget request and joining USA North. Mr. Lipski stated that they do mark their facilities but are only notified to do so when an encroachment permit is pulled by an excavator for work near their facilities. Mr. Lipski stated the local excavators know what to do but did acknowledge a problem when excavators who aren't familiar with their system call 811 and don't check with the city. Mr. Lipski stated the City has experienced dig-ins to their facilities in years past. SI Ehrgott emailed Mr. Lipski his contact info, Dig Safe Board web address, and the language of GC 4216.

Investigative Findings

Following the investigation, SI Ehrgott finds the City of Chico in violation of GC 4216.1.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
Michael Ehrgott	Carla Newman
Signature	Signature
 12/16/2020	<i>Carla Newman</i> 12/16/2020

Witness List

Name: Skyler Lipski

Address: PO Box 3420 Chico, CA 95927

Phone: 5305204776

DL:

Knowledge of: Complaint