

## **City of Visalia – OPEN TRENCH POLICY**

### **Construction Document No. 2013-01**

Updated: 11/25/13

#### **General Requirements for All Trenches**

1. Any excavated area shall be considered an open trench until the trench is backfilled per the Engineering Standard Specifications and Standard Drawings to the level of the adjacent grade and appropriate surfacing has been installed.
2. Trench shoring shall be in accordance with the Construction Standard for Excavations (29 CFR 1926.650-652) Subpart P promulgated by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.
3. Signs, barricades and physical barriers shall be provided as directed by the City Engineer or their designee.
4. No trenches shall remain open for a period of greater than 21 calendar days unless approved otherwise by the City Engineer or their designee.
5. In the interest of public safety, the City Engineer or their designee may make changes or additions to this policy.

#### **Open Trenches – Within or Adjacent to City Right of Way with Vehicular Traffic**

6. The maximum allowable length of open trench shall be as follows, unless approved otherwise by the City Engineer or their designee:
  - A. Business & Commercial Districts = 100 feet
  - B. All other Areas = 300 feet
7. All trenches that remain open at the end of the work day shall be plated in accordance with the City Encroachment Permit Policy Manual and Standard Drawing requirements, including recessed plates when vehicle speeds exceed 25 mph.
8. Refer to the City of Visalia Engineering Standard Specifications Section 19-3.4 “Progress of Work, Trench and Structure Excavation, Backfill” and other related sections for full details and requirements.

#### **Open Trenches – Internal to Private Development Project with No Vehicular Traffic**

9. If development is located within 1,500 feet of a school or other pedestrian sensitive land use as determined by the City Engineer or their designee, the site shall be secured with a 6 foot tall chain link fence.
10. The maximum length of open trench for any trench greater than 4 feet in depth will be restricted to 1,000 lineal feet unless approved otherwise by the City Engineer or their designee or unless the following conditions listed below are met:
  - A. Contractor shall provide a security guard on site seven days a week.
  - B. Site shall be secured with a 6 foot tall chain link fence.
  - C. Signs, barricades and physical barriers are provided as directed by the City Engineer or their designee.
11. All trenches deeper than 4 feet that are left open during non-working hours shall have side slopes of 1.5 feet horizontal to 1.0 feet vertical minimum (or shallower slopes as required by the Engineer or OSHA), unless the conditions under item #10 of this policy are met, and shall comply with all OSHA requirements.
12. The maximum length of open trench for trenches less than 4 feet deep will be restricted to 1,500 lineal feet unless approved otherwise by the City Engineer or their designee unless the conditions under item #10 of this policy are met. All trenches shall comply with OSHA requirements.