

Olympic Substation Project FAQ

What's happening in Beverly Hills and why it matters

Southern California Edison (SCE) understands that construction activity, outages and street impacts can be frustrating. This work is necessary to protect public safety, restore reliability after an emergency and build a stronger electric system for Beverly Hills. SCE works closely with the City of Beverly Hills to manage safety, accessibility and neighborhood impacts.

Why is this work happening?

In December 2025, a city water main break flooded the Olympic Substation, damaging critical electrical equipment and causing power outages in parts of Beverly Hills. Because the damage was extensive, the Olympic 4kV Substation was permanently taken out of service.

At the same time, SCE is moving forward with long planned upgrades to modernize the local electric system and reduce the risk of future outages, especially during summer heat when demand for electricity is highest.

What work is being done?

- The former Olympic 4kV Substation has been decommissioned
- Older 4kV circuits are being converted to a modern 16kV system
- Power is temporarily being carried through alternate routes to keep customers energized
- Crews are upgrading:
 - Poles and transformers
 - Electrical equipment
 - Overhead and underground lines (in phases)

Some remaining work such as replacing older wires and removing temporary poles will continue later in 2026 and into 2027 once electric load is safely balanced.

Why does the work appear staged or ongoing?

Because of the emergency flooding, crews had to prioritize restoring and safely shifting electrical load first to avoid overloading circuits and causing larger outages during peak summer demand.

This phased approach helps:

- Reduce the risk of widespread outages
- Keeps power flowing while long-term upgrades are completed
- Shortens outage times during scheduled work

What should the community expect?

At different times during the project, residents and businesses may notice:

- Temporary, scheduled power outages (with advance notice when possible)
- Alley or street closures and traffic control
- Construction noise
- Crews working on weekends or extended hours
- Temporary parking restrictions or the need for parking passes

How will this project benefit Beverly Hills?

When finished, the upgraded system will:

- Improve power reliability and resiliency
- Reduce outage risk during heat waves and emergencies
- Replace aging infrastructure with a modern 16kV network
- Better serve homes, businesses and essential services
- Prepare the grid for future growth and electrification

How can I stay informed?

- **Project updates:** sce.com/olympicsub
- **Outage alerts:** Residents are encouraged to sign up at sce.com/outage
- **City assistance:** Call ASKBH at 310-285-1000
- **On-site:** signage in affected areas

A note to the community

We recognize that construction can be disruptive and appreciate the community's cooperation. These upgrades, accelerated by an unexpected emergency, are critical to providing safe, reliable power for Beverly Hills today and well into the future.