

# **URD Subdivision 50% Agreement**

Release of Slab requirement

3Q 2020

# Background



- The 50% Agreement requirement was implemented in 2008 due to several economic factors.
  - Imbalance between subdivision lot development relative to single family home starts
  - Oversupply of both "developed" subdivision lots and single family housing units
    - Sales decreased 31.7% December 2008 vs. December 2007
  - Extension of underutilized utility infrastructure
  - Subprime Mortgage Crisis
  - Increase in the mortgage delinquency rate and the number of home foreclosures

# **Current URD Requirements: Single Loop Joint Installation**



- 1. Lots and easements cleared and at Final Grade, pinned and lathed
- 2. Completed Streets, curbed and guttered (if applicable)
- 3. All necessary CNP required documents executed and returned
  - Contribution in Aid of Construction received for street bores, nonstandard construction, 50% contracts, etc.
- 4. Land Rights fully secured by Plat and/or Separate Instrument
- 5. Home Start
  - A. In Lieu of Slab, execution of 50% Contract for Initial Loop

<sup>\*50%</sup> agreement required for all additional loops attributable to load exceeding capacity of a single loop, or geographical impediments to service by a single loop.

# What has changed since 2008?



Slab Requirement placed in effect in 2008

> Vacant Developed Lot Inventory over 30 Months of Supply, 2009 thru 2012

> > Z ZONDA" metrostudy

80,000

70,000

60,000

50,000

40,000 30,000

20,000

10,000

Vacant Developed Lot Inventory, 20 months or less

Vacant Developed Lot Inventory

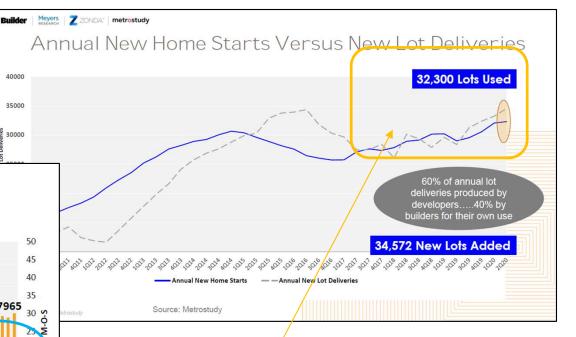
VDL Inventory —VDL MOS

Source: Metrostudy

40000

35000

47965



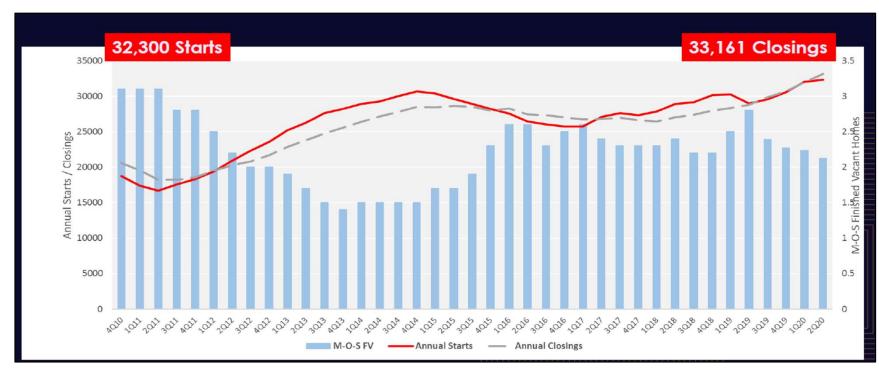
Close Alignment of Lots Used vs New Lots Added

Source Summer 2020 Houston Frame Update Metrostudy Zonda Meyer's research

#### **Current Market Conditions**



- For the last 4 years Finished Lot Delivery and Home Starts are in close alignment
- Despite the presence of COVID 19 home demand remains high with closing outpacing starts
- Finished Vacant Lot supply at 20 months or less



Source

Summer 2020 Houston Frame Update Metrostudy Zonda Meyer's research

#### **New Practice**



#### Single URD Loop Project

 Eliminate the pre-construction walk one slab requirement and no longer require the 50% contribution.

#### Multiple URD Loop Project

- Eliminate the pre-construction walk one slab requirement and no longer require the 50% contribution for the first URD loop.
- Continue with the 50% contribution requirement on URD loops two, three, etc.
- Refund the developers 50% contribution once homes are constructed on 50% of the lots served by the URD loop within two years of the installation completion date of the URD loop.

### Benefits of change



- Developer Community Support
  - Eases concerns over delays in joint trench utility installations
    - Reduces interference with home builder construction activities
    - Avoids potential for delays in home builder closings
- Improved Efficiency in Joint Trench Utility Installations
  - Less interference with builder materials and construction activities
    - Cleaner and less encumbered easements
    - Reduction in sidelot boring
      - Boring slows down NHPL Crew
      - Home starts interfere with standard equipment position on street bores

### **Timeline**



Today October 2020 November 2020 December 2020 January 2021 **Internal Communication** among CNP Elec Depts Communicate to Joint Trench Partners, NHPL Present to GHBA Dry Utility Taskforce, TBA Present to GHBA Developer Jan 1 Council, W. Houston Assoc, initiation and ACEC.

#### **Future Considerations**



- Release of the slab requirement is based on current market conditions.
- Changes in market conditions could trigger reevaluation of slab requirement
- Examples of potential triggers / market data to be monitored:
  - Metrostudy Data:
    - Vacant Developed lot greater than 30 months of supply
    - Substantial Disparity between New Lots Added and New Lots used (i.e. vacant lots)
    - Houston Metro area unemployment rate greater than 10%
  - Internal Tools:
    - Subdivision Occupancy Report

#### Conclusion



- Communication to Internal and External Stakeholders in Q4/2020
- Implementation in Q1/2021
- Future state: Improvement for CNP install process and the customer experience
- Existing 50% agreements will remain in effect and become refund eligible as buildout requirements are achieved.





# Questions?



# **Appendix**

### **Current Practice- 50% Contract Requriement**



#### Single URD Loop Project

- A minimum of one slab is required to schedule the pre-construction walk.
- If a slab has not been constructed when the walk is requested, the developer is required to contribute 50% of the cost of the URD loop. (In addition to charges for non-standard construction, street / side lot bores, etc.)
- If a slab has been constructed by the time the pre construction walk occurs, the developers 50% contribution is refunded (with interest).
- If a slab has not been constructed when the pre construction walk occurs, the developers 50% contribution can be refunded if homes are constructed on 50% of the lots served by the URD loop within two years of the energized date of the URD loop.

# Current Practice- 50% Contract Requirment



#### Multiple URD Loop Project

- A minimum of one slab is required on the first URD loop to schedule the preconstruction walk.
- If a slab has not been constructed when the walk is requested, the developer is required to contribute 50% of the cost of the URD loop. (In addition to charges for non-standard construction, street / side lot bores, etc.)
- Regardless of slab construction, the developer is also required to contribute 50% of the cost for each additional URD loop required to serve the subdivisions section
- If a slab has been constructed on the first URD loop by the time the pre construction walk occurs, the developers 50% contribution for that URD loop is refunded (with interest).
- If a slab has not been constructed when the pre construction walk occurs, the
  developers 50% contribution can be refunded if homes are constructed on 50% of the
  lots served by the URD loops within two years of the URD loops installation
  completion date.

Slab requirement reference in place until December 31, 2020