

# Early Utility Meter Release

This informational bulletin describes the process associated with the early release of a residential utility meter prior to final occupancy inspection. If you have any questions on how the program works, please contact the building counter at 760-602-4610.

## PURPOSE OF EARLY METER RELEASE

As part of the development of new homes, it is anticipated that many home builders want to test systems before final inspection, which, among other things, requires the need for gas and electric services.



These tests are also necessary to receive state required energy efficiency certifications. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the city understands that SDG&E's lead time for meter installation is causing delays in production line deliverables and homeowner occupancy after the final inspection.

The City of Carlsbad is committed to helping home builders get through the land development process. To help reduce wait times for meter installations and turn-ons, and to improve workforce planning and the home buying experience in general, the city created a process to facilitate the early release of gas and electric meters prior to the final occupancy inspection.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A request for early utility release can only be made on single-family and duplex residential development projects that have successfully completed the following:

- The home has successfully passed required inspections for drywall, lath and gas line installations.
- Following the inspections listed above, the home has also successfully passed inspection for "Early Utility Meter Release." As part of this inspection, a city inspector will visit the job site to determine whether conditions are proper and safe to proceed with the conditional release of a meter, including the following:

- Only the equipment requiring testing is installed and the equipment is secured and safe for operation.
- All required underground watermains, overhead construction and hydrants have been installed, approved per plan, and in service.
- The home is accessible by Fire Department apparatus by means of roadways having an approved, paved all-weather driving surface of not less than 24 feet of unobstructed width, can withstand the live loads of fire apparatus of 75,000 lbs. and have a minimum 13½ feet of vertical clearance. Access of 150 feet in length or greater shall provide an approved paved Fire Department turnaround.

## EARLY UTILITY METER RELEASE REQUEST

When early installation of a utility meter is needed, the applicant/contractor must request an Early Utility Meter release inspection with the Building Division. This can be done by e-mailing the division at [bldginspections@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:bldginspections@carlsbadca.gov). Please include the permit number and request ("Early Utility Meter Release Inspection Request") in the subject line of the email. Any questions, please feel free to contact the inspection counter at 760-602-4610.

Following a passed inspection, the city will contact SDG&E to authorize a meter release. It will be the responsibility of the applicant/contractor to schedule a date for SDG&E to install the meter. For a failed Early Utility Meter Release inspection, the inspector will cite the deficiencies. A reinspection will need to be rescheduled along with payment of a reinspection fee.

***Please note that approval of an Early Utility Meter Release is for non-occupancy only. No home is to be occupied until a full release has been granted and final inspection has been approved.***

