The undergrounding process as managed by the City generally consists of four stages:

1. **District Formation**
   Before any design work can begin on an undergrounding process, the City Council must form an Underground Utility District (UUD). The City of Del Mar has divided the city into several districts and will create each district once it is ready to move forward in the order that was established by the City Council in 2019. To create the district, the City Council will hold a public hearing. All residents and property owners within an UUD are mailed a Public Hearing Notice and a map of the proposed area to be converted to underground. This notice informs property owners that their property is located within an area the City Council is intending to underground and explains what the possible impacts are to owning property within an UUD. Any member of the public may attend or speak at the Public Hearing. After the Public Hearing, all property owners within the UUD are sent a copy of the Council Resolution and a map of the newly created UUD.

2. **Design Process**
   Once the City Council has created an UUD, a 12- to 24-month design process begins. During this process the city's team will meet with property owners to discuss the UP, the property owners' responsibilities, answer questions, and let homeowners know what to expect.

   Throughout the design phase, residents may see engineers placing marks on the street, surveyors performing field surveys, or other professionals involved in the design process.

3. **Undergrounding Construction**
   Construction of underground utility systems and the subsequent removal of overhead utility systems in the public right-of-way, if approved by City Council, are anticipated to take between 18 and 24 months for each district. This process consists of four phases: trenching, cabling, cutovers (making the connections and energizing), and pole removal. Residents will receive information in advance of any construction activities that may affect them.

   Phase I: Trenching
   In this phase, crews create a trench and install round plastic conduit below the surface of the roadway. The private property's contractor (hired by the residents) also trench to the private service laterals that connect to each of the homes and businesses at this time or prior to the work in the public right-of-way. This is the most impactful phase of construction for the community. On average, most trenching crews can perform up to 100 feet of trenching per day, so trenching operations can be expected to be in front of any home or business for several days.

   Phase II: Cabling
   In this phase, technicians place new utility lines within the new conduits. The new lines are then energized and brought into service. This work is anticipated to have very little community impact.

   During this phase, residents will probably notice the new transformer and cable boxes and pedestals being placed above ground near the curbs. These boxes are necessary for the underground system to operate properly.

Phase III: Cutovers
Private property lateral connections will need to be completed and accepted by SDG&E before this phase begins. Once a new underground system is in place and energized, properties are switched over from the overhead lines to the new underground systems. Residents can expect limited power outages during this phase. SDG&E will provide notification of outages prior to completing the cutovers.

Phase IV: Pole Removal
When 100% of properties have been switched over to the new underground system, the overhead systems are de-energized and removed.

4. **Construction of Public Improvements**
Once the new underground utility conduits are in place the City may construct public improvements such as paving, sewer, water, and storm drain that have been triggered by or need to be expedited due to efficiency reasons to complete the process.