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STREET LIGHTING
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April 22, 2014

Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Erika Pulst
City Clerk
Room 395 City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

After careful review of the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget for the Bureau of Street Lighting, I find it mainly acceptable as written except the following four items that I respectfully request your consideration.

1. Street Lighting Rehab/Series to Multiple Projects – The Bureau is requesting to transfer the \$1 million allocated to Tree Trimming to the CIEP - Street Lighting Rehab/Series to Multiple Projects referenced in Street Lighting maintenance Assessment Fund (SLMAF) Schedule 19.

For the first time in years, funding was not provided in the CIEP to convert high voltage circuits to low voltage LED units. This conversion saves the City 70% in energy and reduces maintenance costs. This conversion is very important especially to those streetlights that are within 20 feet of a fire hydrant, as these aged high voltage series circuits pose a grave danger to the public and staff and also exposes the City to liability. However, in the St Lighting Maintenance Assessment Fund (SLMAF) Schedule 19, funding of \$1 million was provided for the Tree Trimming program which is not a core service of the Bureau. As the majority of the assessment funds are frozen due to the passage of Prop 218 it seems prudent to continue the SLMAF expenditures that will deliver cost savings and efficiencies for the aging street lighting system.

2. CIEP – New Signal and Signal Modification Funds (\$125,000) – Annually the Bureau is provided funding from Gas Tax for the work that we do to support any New Signals or Signal Modification Projects from the Department of Transportation (DOT). When a new signal is installed or an existing one is modified, the Bureau provides the proper lighting improvements for that intersection. This is funded from the CIEP St. Lighting Improvement on New Signal/Signal Modifications line item. Per Prop 218 the Assessment Fund cannot fund these types of improvements which are considered general benefit. Without this funding source the Bureau will not be able to provide this support to DOT which means new signalized or modified intersections will not have street lights.

3. CIEP - Bridge and Tunnel Maintenance (\$100,000) – The Bureau maintains the lighting in the vehicular tunnels and bridges in the City. Since this type of maintenance cannot legally be paid from the Assessment Fund, the Bureau has requested funding from Gas Tax in the CIEP. Without this funding the Bureau will not be able to continue to maintain lights in the tunnels and bridges.

4. Bus Stop Security Lighting Project (\$495,000) – Historically the Bureau has received funding from Prop C or Measure R for installation of streetlights at bus stops. This program addresses constituent requests through the Council Offices. Lack of lighting in these areas poses a serious public safety hazard especially to commuters waiting at bus stops at night.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (213) 847-2020.

Sincerely,



Ed Ebrahimian, Director
Bureau of Street Lighting

EE:cm

C: Matt Crawford, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Kevin James, President, Board of Public Works
Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer
David Hirano, Chief Admin. Analyst, CAO
Benet Sanchez, Analyst, CAO