CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 13, 2019

TO: Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee

FROM: Adel H. Hagekhalil, P.E.   *AH*
              Executive Director and General Manager
              Bureau of Street Services

SUBJECT: **UNIMPROVED MEDIAN ISLAND MAINTENANCE (CF 18-0879)**

In April 2019, the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) reported to Council on the permanent staff resources necessary to maintain and clean the City's more than four million square feet of unimproved median islands (CF 18-0879).

Subsequently, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 budget was approved, containing $1,000,000 in the Measure M Local Return Fund for maintenance of unimproved median islands. This report sets forth StreetsLA's plan to utilize these funds, and requests transfers to the relevant StreetsLA accounts to enable program implementation.

As was described in the April report, there are two different classes of median islands within the public right of way; improved and unimproved. Improved median islands have an irrigation system; currently StreetsLA maintains more than 10 million square feet of improved median islands using contractors.

Unimproved median islands do not have an irrigation system, and generally fall within the following subtypes:

- Medians with non-irrigated trees and/or plants;
- Medians made of concrete; and
- Medians with concrete curbing around an asphalt center.

The City's four million plus square-feet of unimproved medians currently do not receive regular maintenance, as the StreetsLA staff positions devoted to that function were deleted during the last City's budget fiscal crisis. Maintenance of the unimproved median islands consists of removing unwanted vegetation growth (weeds) litter and other debris.

StreetsLA proposes a three-part plan to expend the $1,000,000 provided in Measure M Local Return during FY 2019-20:

City Forces Overtime Median Maintenance

StreetsLA proposes to use up to $650,000 in funding for existing staff to maintain unimproved medians on weekends using overtime, focusing on the larger medians. In addition to removal of weeds and trash, StreetsLA crews can perform small maintenance such as repair of broken curb and gutter and removal of dead trees and stumps. StreetsLA staff would begin work early in FY 2019-20 with the initial goal of reducing blight and fire risk during the summer and fall. This report requests an initial transfer of $400,000 from Measure M Local Return Fund to the StreetsLA Overtime Account, with additional transfers possible in future Financial Status Reports.

Major Contractor Overtime Median Maintenance

StreetsLA proposes expending up to $200,000 via the existing Improved Median Island Contractors, using an additive change order. These experienced contractors can focus on the center medians of small and medium size, where traffic control experience is needed.

Entry Level Small Business Opportunity

StreetsLA proposes expending up to $150,000 to launch a pilot program to create a small business opportunity for entry-level contractors to provide weeding and trash removal on the smaller medians that are along the side of the road. These medians are not exposed to center lane traffic and require less traffic control. The program would be co-designed by the Bureau of Contract Administration, and would launch in time to address the Spring 2020 weed germination which follows the annual winter rains.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1) Transfer $750,000 from FY2019-20 Measure M Local Return Fund – Unimproved Median Island Maintenance (Fund No. 59C/94/Account No.-tbd) to the following accounts at the Public Works, Bureau of Street Services (Fund No. 100/86) as follows:

Account	Account Name	Amount
001090	Overtime General	$400,000
003040	Contractual Services	$350,000

2) Authorize StreetsLA to make any technical corrections required to effectuate the actions in this Report.

Please contact Division Manager Mr. Sherman Torres at (213) 847-3240 with any questions you may have regarding this report.

AH:GS:SRT