



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** July 11, 2017  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, Department of Public Works, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** **Purchasing Authorization for Traffic Signal and Lighting Components, All Supervisorial Districts**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** Purchasing

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding to procure traffic device components parts, supplies and services used in installation and repair of traffic devices, without competitive bids on an as-needed basis, effective through June 30, 2020; and
- b) Determine that the proposed actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 14 CCR 15378, as they involve administrative and other general policy and procedure making activities that will not result indirect or indirect physical changes to the environment, and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Purchasing Agent to waive competition for procuring traffic signal equipment, lighting equipment, traffic devices and services.

County Code Section 2-39 authorizes the purchasing agent to waive competition when there are limitations on the source of supply, necessary restriction in specifications, or other valid reasons after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Public Works recommends waiving competition for procuring traffic signal and lighting equipment and services.

Traffic signals and lighting are an integral part of the County’s public transportation system that must operate properly at all times for the safety of the traveling public. The Public Works Department needs to be able to respond to traffic signal issues in a timely manner. This waiver is necessary and valid, as it minimizes disruption of traffic signals and lighting.

The waiver of bids meets all three categories of the waiver test: limitations on the source of supply, necessary restriction in specifications, or other valid reasons.

Sources of signal and lighting equipment are limited due to the exact and specific requirements for signals, lighting and traffic devices. All must be compliant with state and federal Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and are often further specified by what SCE and PG&E allow, as well specific requirements of the geometries of a location. Due to these requirements, sources of these supplies are limited and subject to availability and long lead times. The Department purchases equipment from vendors in California and nationally. There are no local vendors of these products.

In addition, the County maintains a cohesive unified traffic system. It is imperative that components of traffic devices are interchangeable for maintenance and emergency repairs. Bulbs, circuitry, controllers, fixtures, and traffic device components cannot be readily repaired and replaced from inventory if there are multiple, non-interchangeable components depending on the location of each need and when it was procured. Efficiency and reasonable response and repair times require the ability to switch out parts with compatible components pre-ordered and in our inventory, or readily available. These factors apply to intersection, sidewalk, and bikeway lighting products as well. Using one source for lighting supplies throughout a given lighting zone is preferred, particularly bike paths and walkway segments. Not only does it enhance the area's aesthetics by maintaining uniformity and consistency, lighting maintenance is more cost effective and efficient, which reduces down time for repairs, and thereby increases public safety.

Also, many traffic signal components, such as poles and mast arms, are custom made and have production lead times as long as 3 to 6 months. To avoid construction delays, the Department orders these parts in advance of awarding construction contracts, thereby reducing the wait time for the contractor to begin construction.

Finally, there is a high demand for the limited number of contractors on call and available to repair and install projects when the scope exceeds the capacity of our in-house, two-person crew. In these instances, it is typical that a signal has been knocked out at a major intersection and new systems must be installed in hours or days. Waiting for months to design-bid-build a contract and procure parts is not an option. Construction can be performed using the Caltrans Standard force account method to ensure costs are commensurate with the work performed.

This process has also helped the County realize considerable time and costs savings. In addition, when traffic signals or other devices are out of service, it is imperative to get them operational as soon as possible for public safety.

**Background:**

Your Board approved this waiver of bids request previously in 2001, 2004, and 2008, 2010, and 2012. This blanket waiver will allow the Purchasing Agent to proceed legally, when the need arises, and without the delays in the procurement of materials which will allow the Public Works Department to respond to traffic operational safety concerns and operate more cost-effectively by reducing the lead-time on intersection improvements and emergency repairs. Public Works recommends your Board authorize through June 30, 2020, the ability to expedite equipment purchases from all traffic signal vendors, without a maximum limit of \$500,000 per year.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative:

There are no direct fiscal impacts as a result of this action. All work and related expenditures for traffic signals and lighting components, have been budgeted in Department 054 as part of maintenance and repair activities or as part of Capital Improvement Projects.

**Special Instructions:**

Please provide a certified, stamped Minute Order approving these actions to the Public Works, Transportation Division, Attention: Gena Valentine Felix, x3064.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Division, 568-3064