



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: April 3, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott McGolpin, Department of Public Works, 568-3010
Contact Info: Eric Pearson, Interim Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: **Blanket Waiver of Bids For Traffic Signal and Lighting Components, All Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve a blanket waiver of bids allowing the Purchasing Agent to procure traffic signal and lighting components parts and supplies used in the installation and repair of traffic signals and lighting, without competitive bids on an as-needed basis;
- B. Make the waiver effective through June 30, 2015;
- C. Find that the proposed action(s) do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making), and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

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. The Department purchases traffic signal and lighting equipment for maintenance, emergency repairs, and new construction projects.

To facilitate repairs and new construction, the Public Works Department purchases traffic signal equipment directly from the vendors. 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.

This process has also helped the County realize considerable time and costs savings. By purchasing equipment in advance, the County has often avoided significant material cost increases, and County supplied materials eliminate contractor markup. 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.

Public Works requests your Board's approval to extend the current waiver for traffic signal lighting components and supplies, as the prices of these items historically have exceeded the amount at which the Purchasing Agent can waive bidding without additional Board approval. The waiver of bids provides the Public Works Department the ability to expedite equipment purchases from all traffic signal vendors, without the current \$30,000 limit. The Department purchases equipment from vendors in California and nationally. There are no local vendors of these products.

Background:

Your Board approved this waiver of bids request previously in 2001, 2004, and 2008, and a two-year extension on March 2, 2010. This current waiver is set to expire on June 30, 2012. Based on State Law and County Code sections adopted by your Board, the Purchasing Agent is required to get bids on items that may exceed \$30,000, for any group of items from a single vendor. This blanket waiver will allow the Purchasing Agent to proceed legally, when the need arises, and without the delays associated with requiring waivers on a case-by-case basis. This process allows 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.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

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.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

None

FTEs:

None

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Division, 568-3047