



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: October 21, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, #568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dace Morgan, Deputy Director, Transportation, #568-3064
SUBJECT: Blanket Waiver of Bids for Traffic Signal Parts and Supplies, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

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 parts and supplies used in the repair and construction of traffic signals without competitive bids on an as-needed basis.
- B. Make the waiver effective through June 30, 2010.

Summary Text:

Traffic signals are an integral part of the County's public transportation system that must continuously operate properly for the traveling public's safety. The Public Works Department needs to have the ability to respond to traffic signal related safety concerns in a timely manner. Traffic signal equipment is purchased for maintenance, emergency repairs, and for new construction.

To facilitate repairs and new construction, the Public Works Department purchases signal equipment directly from several vendors. Many components of a traffic signal such as the poles and mast arms are custom made and have production lead times as long as six to nine months. To avoid construction delays, the Department orders these parts in advance of awarding construction contracts. This reduces the amount of time the contractor has to wait to begin construction after the project is awarded. This process also has helped the County realize significant costs savings. By purchasing in advance, the County has often avoided significant materials cost increases and County supplied materials eliminate contractor markup.

The waiver of bids is requested for traffic signal parts and supplies because the prices of these items have exceeded the amount at which the Purchasing Agent without additional Board authority can waive bidding. The waiver is not for the use of sole source purchases. The waiver of bids provides the Public Works Department with the ability to expedite the purchase equipment from all traffic signal vendors without the current \$25,000 limit. No vendors of this highly specialized traffic signal equipment are located in Santa Barbara County. The equipment is purchased from vendors located in California and nationally.

Background:

Based on State Law and County Code sections adopted by your Board, the Purchasing Agent is required to go to formal bid for any item that may exceed \$25,000 in cost for any group of items from a single vendor. The blanket waiver will allow the Purchasing Agent to proceed legally, and without the delays associated with requiring waivers on a case-by-case basis, when the need arises. This process allows the Public Works Department to respond to traffic and transportation operational safety concerns by reducing the lead-time on intersection improvements and emergency repairs.

Previously, your Board had approved this request for the years 2001 through 2003 and on January 13, 2004 your Board approved the extension of that waiver for three years (2004-2006). The Department of Public Works is requesting this action because the County now maintains approximately 50 traffic signals and flashing beacons with several ongoing new and replacement traffic signal projects currently being worked on.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

There are no direct fiscal impacts as a result of this action. All work and related expenditures for traffic signals have been budgeted in Department 054 as part of maintenance and repair activities and/or as part of capital improvement projects.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a certified, stamped Minute Order for pickup to the attention of Erin Maker, #568-3232, Public Works Department, Traffic Section.

Authored by:

Charles Ebeling C.E., T.E., County Traffic Engineer #568-3232

cc:

PW Accounting
GS Purchasing