



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: March 2, 2010
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: Dacé Morgan, 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

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; and
- B. Make the waiver effective through June 30, 2012.

Summary Text:

Traffic signals and lighting 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 and lighting equipment is purchased for maintenance, emergency repairs, and for new construction.

To facilitate repairs and new construction, the Public Works Department purchases traffic 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 6 to 9 months. To avoid construction delays, the Department orders these parts in advance of awarding construction contracts, thus reducing the amount of time the contractor has to wait to begin construction.

This process has also helped the County realize significant costs savings. By purchasing the 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. Maintenance of lighting products are more cost effective if the same source is used throughout a lighting zone (particularly bike paths and walkway segments), which also helps maintain uniformity and coherence in lighted areas.

The waiver of bids, as approved by the Board various times previously, is requested for traffic signal, lighting components and supplies, because the prices of these items 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 with the ability to expedite the purchase of equipment from all traffic signal vendors, without the current \$30,000 limit. Since there are no local vendors of these products, equipment is purchased from vendors in California and nationally.

Background:

Based on State Law and County Code sections adopted by the Board of Supervisors, 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.

The Board has previously approved this request for the years 2001 through 2003, and on January 13, 2004, the Board approved the extension of that waiver for three years (2004-2006). The current waiver for traffic signal components, approved on October 21, 2008, expires in June of 2010.

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 and lighting components, have been budgeted in Department 054 as part of maintenance and repair activities and/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, Engineering Section, Attn: Beverly Cross, 568-3094.

Authored by:

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Division, 568-3047