

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2009
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C: Streetlight Maintenance Update

Recommended Action: Receive and file this report.

Background:

Republic ITS, our streetlight maintenance contractor has reported on their progress on our new pole inspection and repair program as well as the latest Metricom device removals.

As of August 15th, they have removed 189 Metricom units, which is significantly more than the inventory we had going into this year that showed 79.* Republic believes they have completed most of the removals, but expect to find and remove another 20 - 40 units through their routine inspection program. The inventory by jurisdiction of removed Metricom devices is attached.

With regard to the pole inspection program, Republic has had some delays in getting started. The City of Larkspur has requested an option for a separate, physical inspection of wooden poles (referred to as pole test and treat) in addition to the visual inspection included in our new program. This physical inspection would only be done on wooden poles owned by MGSA members who choose to have them done. The two inspections would require different types of crews with different equipment and skills. This second inspection will require going to each wooden pole, digging around the base, placing a chemical wrap around the base, sounding the pole with a hammer, drilling into solid wood to install chemicals, and plugging and tagging. In addition, Republic needed to acquire new GPS recording devices to be more accurate and efficient. They have purchased PDA's with the GPS's and are now planning to start the visual inspections during the week of September 7th and will most likely start in Novato and work south.

Republic is preparing a fee per pole for the physical inspection as well as a "guesstimate" of the number of wood poles owned by each jurisdiction so as to be able estimate the total cost of doing the added inspection for each jurisdiction.

* Looking into old files, I found that the payments by Metricom, Inc. to the Streetlight JPA used an inventory of 76 Metricom devices. However, I also found an email to Marty Nichols from John Sullivan (2003) at Ricochet showing as many as 345 device locations.

Attachment: Metricom Removal Summary, August 29, 2009