

# MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 12, 2009

**TO:** MGSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Paul Berlant, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM C: STREETLIGHT POLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

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Recommended Action: Consider the proposed Rate Schedule for “Physical Pole Inspections” and authorize Republic ITS to offer that service to MGSA members.

### Discussion:

At the May 14, 2009 MGSA Board meeting, the Board approved a program rate for the visual inspection of wooden poles by our streetlight maintenance contractor, Republic ITS. At the September 10, 2009 meeting, the Board, at the urging of the City of Larkspur, requested Republic prepare an additional proposal to do a more comprehensive, physical inspection program (referred to as pole test and treat). This inspection would be done on wooden poles owned by MGSA members who choose to have this inspection and treatment 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 where possible, placing a chemical wrap around the base, sounding the pole with a hammer, drilling into solid wood to install fumigants, and plugging and tagging.

Republic has prepared the requested proposal. The rates vary based on whether or not the pole is encased in concrete or asphalt and whether the pole is a standard wooden or hollow bore pole. Sub-grade inspections would not be done on those poles encased in concrete/asphalt and drilling and treatment with fumigants would not occur above grade on hollow bore poles. The rates range from \$68 to \$113 per inspection.

For budgeting purposes, Republic has also estimated the cost to each MGSA member based on their current inventory of member owned wood poles. In order to be as conservative as possible, Republic has defaulted to assuming the most expensive inspection fee for each pole identified in their inventory. Thus, if the data in their inventory did not indicate whether the pole is encased in concrete, is a hollow bore, or whether the pole might have other utilities on it (which would mean an inspection is performed by the utility company under state law) the most expensive option was used to estimate a total cost for that member. In addition, Republic “rounded-up” the total number of poles by 5% in order to ensure the estimate was not low. See Republic’s letter proposal attached.

A revised Streetlight Maintenance Rate Schedule has also been prepared for the Board's consideration and adoption, should you want Republic to offer this added service. This added inspection, would be optional, at the discretion of the MGSA member.

Attachments:

- Letter proposal dated October 22, 2009
- Streetlight Summary by Member
- Revised Streetlight Maintenance Rate Schedule dated October 26, 2009