

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2009

TO: MGSA Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C: STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
UPDATE AND METRICOM DEVICE REMOVAL

Recommendation: Approve a new streetlight pole inspection and maintenance program and new 2009-10 Rate Schedule, including a new service call rate for removal of Metricom radio devices.

Background: In the past year the MGSA has determined that a comprehensive inspection and maintenance program of streetlight poles (in addition to the actual lights) is called for given the age of the current inventory of streetlights. Staff has consulted with our streetlight maintenance contractor, Republic ITS, which has suggested a program of inspection of all MGSA streetlight poles over the period of one year. Repairs would be made in subsequent years, so as to give members time to budget accordingly.

MGSA inherited the problem of removal of Metricom devices on streetlight poles. The service agreement with Republic requires their removal when a service call is made to a streetlight pole on which such a device has been placed. The cost of removal has been set at \$45. There are approximately 79 Metricom devices on the approximately 14,000 streetlights maintained countywide by Republic (~0.5%). Thus far, less than a dozen have been removed.

Proposed Program: Under the current contract, MGSA members have the option to choose from two levels of service, reflected in the rate schedule by which members pay Republic for streetlight maintenance. Attached is Republic's latest rate schedule, dated April 13, 2009, including new services of pole inspection and "unit" repair costs should an inspection find such work necessary. Schedule 1, the lower level of service, shows a \$12.80 charge for each pole inspection. Schedule 2, shows no cost for inspection and some repair costs are included in the Schedule 2 rates. The other charges shown in the rate schedule are unchanged from the current year, with the exception of a specific rate for metal halide lights, for which there was no previous separate rate. There are approximately 250 metal halide lights throughout the county. Also attached is a table indicating which members have selected Schedule 1 or 2.

Conversations with the local representative of Republic indicate that they do not anticipate that many poles will need replacement but more will need repairs and/or painting. Thus, the contractor does not anticipate a large number of high cost repairs.

One of the considerations for the Board is the means by which we ensure that needed repairs are made, even though the MGSA would not take the affirmative step of ordering the repair/replacement. Staff suggests that we notify members that during the next fiscal year (2009-10) the inspections will be made and that they budget accordingly, depending on their choice of rate schedule and number of streetlights in their jurisdiction, and that in the subsequent years, when repairs are to be made, they budget for such costs over a specific period of time. At this time, staff would suggest two to four years, depending on the number of poles found in need of repair/replacement.

Metricom Units: Republic proposes to remove all Metricom devices in the next year on a proactive basis at a cost of \$75.50 per device. Rather than remove the devices on regular service calls, Republic will visit each pole that has a Metricom unit and remove the devices. An inventory of poles with the devices is attached.

A representative of Republic ITS will attend the May 14th Board meeting to answer questions.

Attachments:

- Streetlight Maintenance Rate Schedule dated April 13, 2009
- Exhibit A from the MGSA/Republic service agreement, describing the work to be performed under the two rate schedules
- Table of members by selected rate schedule
- Metricom inventory by member