



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No.** _____

FROM: Interim City Administrator

SUBJECT: Citywide Streetlight Pole Replacement Project

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this agenda staff report regarding the Citywide Streetlight Pole Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND:

On January 2017, representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE), a subsidiary of Edison International, approached the City of Commerce for its streetlight pole replacement capital improvement project. SCE's current Fiscal Year 2016-17 capital improvement plan involves the replacement of existing steel streetlight poles with new marbelite concrete streetlight poles for multiple cities in its service area. The new streetlight lamps will be powered by high-pressure sodium. Please see *Exhibit 1*. Commerce is one of those cities scheduled for the removal and replacement of approximately 220 streetlight poles.

ANALYSIS:

SCE's streetlight pole replacement project focuses primarily on the residential area neighborhoods surrounding Bandini Park, Rosewood Park, and Veterans Park. A stretch of new streetlight replacements is planned for the commercial or industrial section traversing Olympic Boulevard and Gerhart Avenue.

New decorative streetlight poles have already been installed along much of Washington Boulevard due to the current and ongoing street improvement project. Therefore, SCE's project will not replace the newly installed streetlight poles along Washington Boulevard.

Please see *Exhibit 2*. The red dots represent the proposed removal and installation of new streetlight poles, except along most of Washington Boulevard.

City staff met and consulted with SCE representatives on February and March 2017 and discussed the option of installing decorative streetlight poles that were consistent with the ones recently installed along Washington Boulevard, so as to beautify and conform to the surrounding community.

However, SCE representatives informed and explained to City staff that it was cost prohibitive to install “custom-built” decorative streetlights. SCE’s cost of replacing and installing the new concrete marbelite streetlight poles is estimated to be approximately \$1.6 million to \$2.0 million, to be completely financed by SCE and not by the City, whereas the installation of “custom-built” decorative streetlights will be at least four times as much, approaching to an estimated project cost of \$8 million, including future maintenance. The additional cost of \$6 million would have to be financed by the City of Commerce.

The overage of cost is primarily due to the following:

- Creating a new set of electrical and streetlight design plans.
- Undergrounding new electrical infrastructure since decorative streetlights cannot be installed with overhead wires.
- Ordering the “custom-built” decorative streetlights that cost more than the standard concrete marbelite streetlight.
- Factoring in future maintenance costs since decorative streetlights cost more to maintain in the long term.
- All future maintenance costs for each decorative streetlight will have to be financed by the City and not SCE.
- Higher replacement costs in the event of damage or streetlight pole “knock-down” since the new pole will need to be custom-ordered.
- Difficulty in electrical maintenance since all infrastructure is underground and will require costly street and sidewalk excavation and trenching.

Therefore, given the high cost of installing “custom-built” decorative streetlights, including future maintenance, City staff deemed it prudent for SCE to install its concrete marbelite poles that includes any future maintenance costs.

This action still beautifies the community with new aesthetic concrete marbelite poles without the City having to finance either the installation or future maintenance.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Reject staff recommendation
3. Provide staff with further direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

None, if the City chooses to elect the concrete marbelite streetlight installation option proposed by SCE. All removal, installation, and future maintenance costs will be financed by SCE.

If the City chooses to install “custom-built” decorative streetlight poles, then the additional cost to the City will be approximately \$6 million, with increasing maintenance costs over future years. A new funding source would need be determined if this option were to be chosen.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item is related to a specific 2012 Strategic Goal to “improve and maintain infrastructure and beautify our community.”

Approved by: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works and Development Services

Prepared by: Seung Yang, Associate Civil Engineer

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Matthew C. Rodríguez, Interim City Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Exhibit 1* – Typical Concrete Marbelite Streetlight Pole
2. *Exhibit 2* – Commerce Streetlight Pole Installation Overview Map