



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable City Council **Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Washington Boulevard Sump Pump Station Electrical Outage

**MEETING DATE:** March 5, 2019

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### RECOMMENDATION:

City Council to receive and file a report on the Washington Boulevard Sump Pump Station electrical outage during a recent rain event.

### BACKGROUND:

The City contracts with PumpMan for maintenance and operations of its four sump pump stations located at 6207 E. Washington Boulevard, 1540 Garfield Avenue, 2809 S. Eastern Avenue, and 2593 S. Atlantic Boulevard. The purpose of these stations is to pump rain water into the stormdrain system at the City's low points due to freeways and railroad overpasses.

During a recent rain event, power was lost at one sump pump station located on Washington. Staff responded immediately to water ponding in the street and closed down Washington at the I-5 Freeway. Staff determined that there was an Edison power loss in the area and contacted PumpMan and Edison immediately. PumpMan responded within one hour with a generator to temporarily provide power to the two motors to pump water into the stormdrain until which time Edison could permanently restore power as below:



Generator

Edison inspected the site and was able to restore power, but determined the wires that run from the junction box to the sump pump motors burned at the point that it fed one of the motors. Edison plans to dig an area around the junction box to assess the material and equipment needed to make repairs. They will likely need to run a new electrical line from the pump station to their junction box since the wiring is very old cloth wrapped wiring and in poor condition. This old wiring most likely failed due to age, burned out which caused fuses to blow out and placed much higher electrical loads on the other wires. Once repaired, both motors will be operable. Edison will notify staff of their start date in the next few weeks. For now, one is operating as needed when it rains and PumpMan is available with a generator if needed. PumpMan's generator is much larger than needed for any of our pump stations. However, the cost for a smaller back-up generator for the sump pumps range from \$30,000 to \$60,000 depending on used versus new including a trailer mount.

Since Edison is in the process of replacing the wiring, purchasing a generator of this size and expense may not be necessary at this time. The City owns two small generators used for pumping flooded water from streets and they are effective during most rain events. The storm that we experienced that caused this issue was not typical and measures are in place to minimize impacts to our community in the future.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Disapprove staff recommendation
3. Provide further direction to staff

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Commerce.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:**

This item is related to a specific 2016 Strategic Goal to "create and pursue opportunities for collaboration and regional partnerships to maximize resources and address regional issues."

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

Prepared by: Gina Nila, Deputy Director of Public Works Operations

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Norma Copado, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator