

August 2, 2004

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
August 10, 2004

STREETLIGHT ELIMINATION

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the removal of up to 50% of the streetlights in the northwest portion of the City as a test project before proceeding citywide.

Summary:

Appropriations for the Lighting/Landscaping District (LLD) for fiscal year 2004-05 are \$661,131. These appropriations are funded by \$455,000 in tax levy funds, \$2,750 in miscellaneous revenue and \$61,643 from the LLD fund balance. The deficit of \$141,738 was funded with a transfer from the General Fund. As part of the budget review process, Council directed staff to investigate eliminating approximately half the streetlights as a means of balancing the District budget by reducing expenditures. The majority of streetlights in the City are already energy efficient sodium vapor bulbs therefore removal is the only cost savings option. This was recommended in lieu of balloting residents to consider a cost increase to their Lighting District assessments (presently \$41.68/year).

Staff performed a cost analysis (see ATTACHMENT 1), which determined that a 50% reduction in lighting would save approximately \$50,590 the first year in energy savings per year when the lights are turned off and an additional \$62,410 per year in tariffs when the Edison-owned lights are removed, for a total annual savings of \$113,000. There is a \$40 per lamp charge for Edison to turn off the lights and bag them, for a total cost of approximately \$20,000.

Since this concept became public, staff has received mixed reviews from residents (see attached letters). Many residents are happy to see the lights turned off while others are concerned about safety. Staff recommends implementing these changes by starting out with a test area. The selected area is in the northwest section of the city, bounded by 27th Street on the south, City boundary on the north, Valley Drive on the east and the Strand on the west. The proposal is to remove all of the mid-block lights on the residential streets, leaving one light at the intersections and to remove every other light on Hermosa Avenue and on the Strand. This will eliminate 50 of the existing 152 lights.

These lights will be turned off and left bagged for a trial period of approximately three months. Staff will bring the results of this test back to Council for final determination whether or not to proceed with streetlight removals citywide. If it is determined to proceed, the lights will be removed. The wooden power poles will remain but the concrete and steel poles will also be removed.

Fiscal Impact:

Edison owns 41 of the 57 lights being removed. There is a \$40 per lamp charge for turning off the lights, for a cost of \$1,640 to be funded by the Lighting/Landscaping District (105-2601-4303).

Attachments:

1. Cost Savings memo
2. Resident letters
3. Map

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

Noted for fiscal impact:

Viki Copeland
Finance Director