

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 03/17/08		Item Number: A-4	
AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of the City's Participation in Earth Hour 2008			
Contact Person/Dept.: Catherine Vargas, Public Works		Phone Number: (310) 253-6411	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List (03/12/08)			
Department Approval: Charles Herbertson ()		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (03/11/08)	
Fiscal Impact Review: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (03/12/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (03/12/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council consider the City's participation in Earth Hour 2008 and direct staff to participate in this event. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> On October 15, 2007, the City Council received brief comments related to an event entitled "Lights Out Los Angeles." (See Attachment 1) The event was held on October 20, 2007 in both the City of Los Angeles and the City of San Francisco (and other cities nationwide). The event traces its origins to an event in Sydney, Australia held on March 31, 2007 where residents and businesses were encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour with a goal of energy conservation. During the October 15, 2007 meeting, the City Council expressed an interest in learning more about the event so the Council could determine if the City should become a participant. <u>DISCUSSION:</u> As mentioned in Attachment 2, rather than promote a separate event, the organizers of "Lights Out America" have determined to support a worldwide event sponsored by the World Wildlife Federation scheduled for March 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. known as Earth Hour (please see Attachment 3 for additional information on Earth Hour).			

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The goal of Earth Hour is to have as many non-essential lights turned off, thereby saving energy. For example, the event in Sydney in 2007 reported a decrease of 10% in electricity use.

Should the City Council determine to have the City become a participant in this event, staff would evaluate lighting used for City purposes and turn off non-essential lights. Items such as street lighting and other lighting sources deemed to be safety-related would remain fully illuminated.

To conserve resources, staff would also propose (1) posting information regarding the event on the City's website and (2) sending an e-mail notification through the City's master notification list (as was accomplished before last October's event).

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Reduced usage of electricity would result in (1) a decrease in energy usage at City Hall and other City owned buildings resulting in a reduction in expenditures for electricity; and (2) a decrease in revenues associated with the Utility Users Tax. However, the one hour duration of this event is not expected to have a significant impact on either revenues or expenditures.

Participation in this event was not included in the work plan adopted by the City Council as part of the Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Budget. However, the City Manager recommends participating in this event as it furthers the City Council's overall environmental policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. "Lights out in Los Angeles" September 30, 2007 from Monsters and Critics.com
2. Information on Lights Out America (from lightsoutamerica.org)
3. Information on Earth Hour (from earthhour.org)

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the City's participation in Earth Hour 2008 on Saturday, March 29, 2008 between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM (excluding from participation any safety or essential lighting as determined by the City Manager or other appropriate staff); and

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2. Determine the level of City participation will include (1) placement of information on this event on the City's website, (2) sending an electronic message to subscribers on the City's e-mail master notification list notifying them of the availability of this information; and (3) directing staff to minimize non-essential/non-safety related lighting on City owned properties as determined by the City Manager or other appropriate staff.