



# City of Culver City

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## Staff Report

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**File #:** 23-423, **Version:** 2

**Item #:** C-4.

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**CC - CONSENT ITEM: Approval of a Purchase Order with Econolite for 15 Traffic Signal Battery Backup Systems in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$171,006.24.**

**Meeting Date:** December 5, 2022

**Contact Person/Dept.:** Andrew Maximous/Public Works  
Gary Wansley/Public Works

**Phone Number:** (310) 253-5628  
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**Fiscal Impact:** Yes ☒ No ☐ **General Fund:** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Attachments:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Commission Action Required:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Commission Name:**

**Public Notification:** (E-Mail) Meetings and Agendas - City Council (11/30/22)

**Department Approval:** Yanni Demitri, Public Works Director/City Engineer (11/17/22)

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the City Council approve a purchase order with Econolite for 15 traffic signal battery backup systems in an amount not-to-exceed \$171,006.24.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Culver City Public Works Department Maintenance Operations Division maintains 115 traffic signals. None of the traffic signals have a battery backup system. When a loss of power occurs, the traffic signal indications become dark. While the California Vehicle Code Section 21800 (d)(1) requires drivers to stop when approaching intersections where a traffic signal is not working, many drivers are unaware. Installing a battery backup system would help reduce traffic collisions and congestion by ensuring that the traffic signal continues to operate after power failures, power spikes, or interruptions in service.

## **DISCUSSION**

This purchase would install 15 battery backup systems at the City's largest and most congested intersections. The locations are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Washington Boulevard & Washington Place/Zanja Street | 2. Sepulveda Boulevard & Washington Place       |
| 3. Washington Boulevard & Sepulveda Boulevard           | 4. Culver Boulevard & Sepulveda Boulevard       |
| 5. Washington Boulevard & Overland Avenue               | 6. Culver Boulevard & Overland Ave              |
| 7. Culver Boulevard & Irving Place                      | 8. Culver Boulevard & Ince Boulevard            |
| 9. Washington Boulevard & National Boulevard            | 10. Washington Boulevard & La Cienega Boulevard |
| 11. Slauson Avenue & Bristol Pkwy                       | 12. Slauson Avenue & SR-90                      |
| 13. Hannum Avenue & Slauson Ave                         | 14. Jefferson Boulevard & Overland Avenue       |
| 15. Jefferson Boulevard & Duquesne Avenue               |   |

The City has selected the Econolite as its standard battery backup system after a previous trial period of various systems and vendors between 2020 and 2022. The Econolite system uses nickel-zinc batteries instead of the traditional lead-acid batteries. The nickel-zinc batteries do not contain hazardous materials, are half the size and weight of lead-acid batteries, and have a longer operational life.

The compact form of the Econolite batteries do not require a separate side cabinet to be installed to the traffic signal cabinet. Instead, they can be installed within the existing traffic signal cabinet. Two batteries at each location will allow the traffic signal to run normally for approximately 1-2 hours and to then run in all-way flashing red mode for an additional 6-8 hours approximately, providing up to 10 hours of backup time.

An additional 11 locations are slated to receive the same battery backup system as part of separate projects or land development conditions of approval within the next six months.

Pursuant to Culver City Municipal Code Section 3.07.055.B, competitive bidding requirements do not apply when the equipment is a component for equipment or a system of equipment previously acquired by the City, and is necessary to repair, maintain or improve the City's utilization of the equipment. This procurement falls within this exception. Notwithstanding, City staff did obtain three quotes, and is recommending Econolite as the preferred firm, as well as the lowest quote.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

The Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 includes sufficient funding to cover costs for the proposed purchase in Capital Improvement Projects PL014 \$150,000 (Traffic Signal Battery Backup

System) and PZ429 \$21,006.24 (Traffic Signal Upgrade and ITS Improvements).

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

### **MOTIONS**

That the City Council:

1. Approve a purchase order with Econolite for 15 traffic signal battery backup systems in an amount not-to-exceed \$171,006.24; and
2. Authorize the Purchasing Officer to execute the purchase order on behalf of the City.