

# Agenda Report

**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Finance Committee

**Date:** December 9, 2002

**From:** City Manager

**Subject:** Journal Voucher Transfer for the Purchase of Cal OSHA Required Safety Equipment for the Power Delivery Business Unit's Underground Distribution Division.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a journal voucher transferring not to exceed \$60,000 from the unappropriated Power Fund fund balance to account number 401-8101-843220-0584.

Background:

Each vehicle in Pasadena Water and Power's Underground Division fleet has been configured such that it can be deployed anywhere in the City as a self-contained, independent unit. As such, each vehicle has all equipment resources necessary for independent activity including all safety equipment required by law.

The Power Delivery Business Unit's Underground Distribution Division is required by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA) to provide various types of safety equipment for staff. The Underground Distribution Division is required under Cal OSHA Title 8, CCR 5144(d)(2)(A), to provide self-contained breathing equipment for use in the event of an enclosed space rescue where the air is non-breathable; is also required under Cal OSHA Title 8, CCR 2940.6(j), to provide flame and electrical arc resistant outerwear used during enclosed space, power-switching operations in underground vaults; and is required under Cal OSHA, Title 8, CCR 5158(k)(3) to provide a means to remove injured workers from vertical entry power vaults.

The life span of the self-contained breathing equipment is 15 years after which the compressed air cylinders can no longer be certified for use. Also, a recent change in the regulations now requires a 30-minute breathing capability rather than the former 15-minute requirement for which the current equipment is rated.

The equipment used by the Underground Division is at the point in time where the cylinders must be scrapped and, at the same time, are out of compliance.

Staff evaluated the options of replacing the existing cylinders with 30-minute tanks or to replace the entire equipment set with new equipment that meets Cal OSHA standards; and at the same time is lighter in weight and thus more mobile and reduces the potential for back injury.

Recent changes to the regulations covering flame and electrical arc protection have increased the standard for survivability for protective outerwear. The current outerwear provided to staff engaged in underground switching operations does not meet current regulation standards and must be replaced.

Underground Division management has always provided each vehicle with a means of extracting an injured worker from a vertically entered power vault. Recent testing suggests that these devices may not be effective in removing an injured worker from a vault. Also, when compared to currently available equipment, the devices used by the Underground Division are not designed or rated for the purpose of removing a worker from a vault; therefore they are not in compliance with current regulations. Staff has reviewed a variety of devices, and has selected one that is of lightweight fiberglass construction, which reduces electrical shock hazards, comes complete with all necessary ropes, pulleys, harness, and storage.

Management was aware of the need for this equipment prior to the development of the FY 2003 Operating Budget, however the exact requirements had not been made public at that time, nor was the timing of the new regulations. As a result, these items were not included in the FY 2003 Operating Budget.

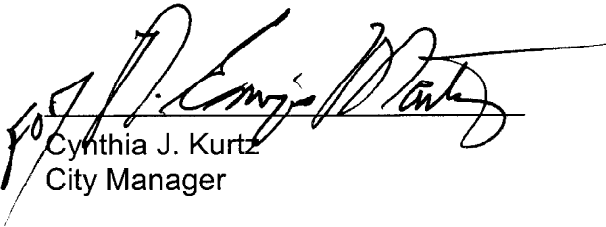
Quotes were received in the amount of \$24,187.38 for the purchase of 17 Lifeair 30 minute self-contained breathing apparatus sets, including storage and carrying cases; \$10,110.21 for the purchase of flame and electrical arc resistant outerwear including, 12 hoods, jackets and overpants and; \$22, 871.88 for the purchase of 14 enclosed space rescue tri-pods and associated blocks, ropes, harness and storage equipment totaling \$57,169.47.

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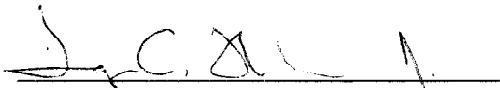
Fiscal Impact:

This purchase will require the one-time expenditure of not to exceed \$60,000.  
These funds are available in the Power Fund unappropriated fund balance.

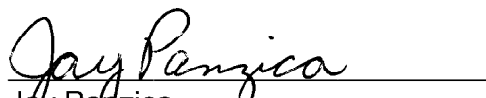
Respectively submitted,

  
Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

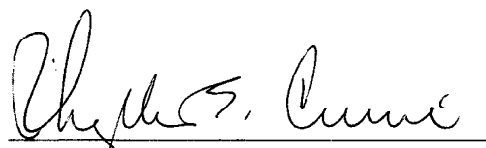
Prepared by:

  
George C. Wilson, Jr.  
Business Unit Director, Power Delivery  
Pasadena Water and Power

Concurred by:

  
Jay Panzica  
Director of Finance  
Pasadena Water and Power

Approved by:

  
Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Pasadena Water and Power