

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 9, 2007

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ENDING THE INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF ELECTRICAL PERMITS IN THE B-7 ELECTRIC CIRCUIT AREA OF THE CITY

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Lift the interim urgency moratorium on new and upgraded electrical service connections in the B-7 electrical circuit area.
2. Conduct first reading of expiration ordinance.
3. Find the proposed ordinance to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, because the ordinance involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the City has not approved, adopted or funded, and does not involve adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

BACKGROUND

On June 19, 2006, City Council approved a 45-day Interim Urgency Ordinance temporarily prohibiting the issuance of Building, Mechanical and Electrical permits in the B-7 electric circuit (B-7) of the City. Ordinance 7048, implementing the moratorium, was adopted on June 26, 2006 and became effective upon publication on June 29, 2006. On July 31, 2006, Council approved an extension of a narrower Ordinance prohibiting only the issuance of new electrical permits for an additional 10 months and 15 days. Ordinance 7059, implementing the extension of the moratorium, was adopted on August 7, 2006.

While the moratorium has been in effect, the Pasadena Water and Power Department (Department) has designed and installed a mini-substation, consisting of a transformer and a switch in an underground vault, and added a new circuit. A portion of the B-7 load has

been transferred to the new substation and circuit. This temporary solution is expected to relieve the overloading on B-7 for several years until a permanent and long term solution is implemented. The Department's analysis of the modified B-7 and the recently added circuit indicates that additional electrical services may now be added in the area of the City served by the original B-7 without overloading the circuits serving the area and without jeopardizing the electric distribution system.

Section 5 of Ordinance 7059 allows for early expiration of the Ordinance, and the Department recommends that Council lift the Moratorium and allow the Ordinance to expire.

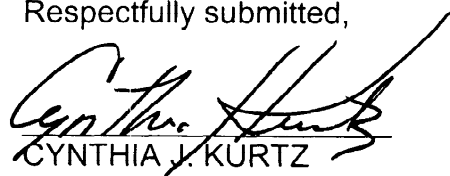
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

This ordinance has been determined to be exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA Guidelines, Section 15060 (C)(2) because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, because the ordinance involves only the feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the City has not approved, adopted, or funded, and does not involve adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

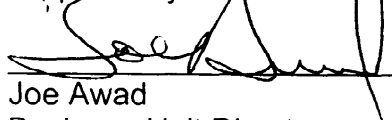
If the moratorium is lifted early, revenue from fees for permits and property tax attributable to the construction of new projects may now be received earlier than originally projected. There are no direct costs attributable to lifting the moratorium.

Respectfully submitted,



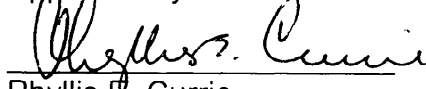
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