

Agenda Report

To: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** August 16, 2004
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: Purchase Of Two 14-Foot Step Vans

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Accept the bid dated April 20, 2004, submitted by Los Angeles Freightliner, Inc. in response to specifications for the purchase of two 14-foot step vans for the Water and Power Department;
- 2) Authorize the issuance a purchase order contract to Los Angeles Freightliner, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$212,682.

BACKGROUND:

The Water and Power Department, Underground Power Division utilizes Senior Cable Splicers to perform routine and emergency electrical work for the City. Each splicing crew consists of a Senior Cable Splicer, Electrical Craft Helper and a step van to perform their requisite functions. The Department has determined that this crew configuration provides optimal operational effectiveness in providing underground electrical services throughout the city.

For the past two years, the Underground Power Division has been operating with eight Senior Cable Splicers rather than the budgeted ten. During the next six months, two Senior Cable Splicers will be added to the Unit. As a result, the Water and Power Department needs to purchase two special duty 14-foot step vans, which will enable the Underground Power Division crews to function at their full capacity. The building, outfitting and delivery of the new vehicles will coincide with staffing and training the splicing crews to operate the vehicles.

Step vans are used daily in the construction and maintenance of underground power, both transmission and distribution systems, for new primary and secondary services to homes and businesses. These special duty vans are on call 24 hours a day and must be available for deployment in case of an emergency. The trucks are of a size that, when working on city streets, minimally impact traffic flow and this vehicle also functions as a material handling platform and mini warehouse. Typically, work crews travel to a particular worksite and remain at that location, with the engine operating, for extended periods while the vehicle remains stationary. Because of their longevity, low maintenance and general efficiency, diesel engines, heretofore, are best suited for this type of service vehicle. The replacement schedule for these vehicles is twenty years.

The purchase of the two 14-foot step vans is subject to Rule 1196, Clean On-Road Heavy-Duty Public Fleet Vehicles, of South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). This rule requires that these vehicles use alternative-fuel (including CNG, LNG, and LPG), dual-fuel or gasoline engines unless the City can demonstrate an alternative to diesel engines is not feasible.

To meet the SCAQMD requirement, two specifications for these vans were prepared in consultation with SCAQMD; one specified an alternative fuel engine and the other a diesel engine. On April 1, 2004, two Notices Inviting Bids, one for alternative fuel vehicles and one for diesel fuel vehicles, were published in *The Pasadena Journal*. In addition, specifications were mailed to six vendors on the Purchasing Division's vendor list who specialize in this type of product. The bid notifications were also posted on the City's web page. No responses were received for alternative fuel vehicles and two responses were received and opened, in the City Clerk's office, on April 20, 2004, for diesel fuel vehicles.

Upon reviewing bids, the Water & Power Department applied for a Technical Infeasibility Certification (TICR) from SCAQMD for the purchase of diesel engine step vans. On July 1, 2004, the SCAQMD granted an approval for the purchase of two diesel-powered 14-foot Step Vans.

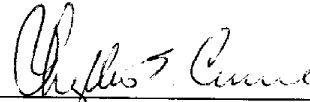
FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds are available in account 8505-401-843220-0384.

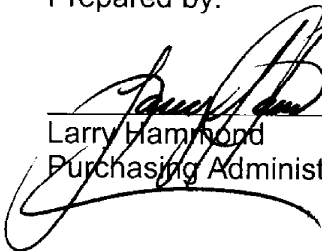
Respectfully submitted,


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City Manager

Approved by:


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