



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2023

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

**FROM: ROBERT YALDA, P.E., T.E., PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
TATIANA HOLDEN, P.E., DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: SCE LED STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT

MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2023

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council approves SCE LED Street Light Replacement Program and directs staff to work with SCE on its implementation.

BACKGROUND:

Southern California Edison (SCE) owns and maintains 1,694 of the street lights throughout the City of Calabasas along residential and arterial streets. 172 of these lights are under account to the City and 1,522 lights are under account to the County of Los Angeles. These street lights presently utilize high pressure sodium (HPS) lamps, which are a common technology for outdoor lighting uses. The utility charges a monthly fee, known as a LS-1 tariff, to provide electricity as well as operations and maintenance for each fixture. SCE, as the owner, provides for maintenance, including lamp replacements, troubleshooting, and replacement following knockdowns.

On June 1, 2016, the LS-1 Option E tariff became available to cities for street lights retrofit. This new tariff allows SCE to replace HPS lamps with LED lamps with no up-front capital cost to cities.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The primary purpose of street lighting is to illuminate the roadway & pedestrian walkway to provide accurate visibility at night of possible hazards, allowing sufficient time for drivers and pedestrians to react and reduce the proportion of accidents. In addition, street lighting provides increased security for the community and aids law enforcement.

LED lamps can produce light as much as two times more efficiently than HPS lights leading to energy and cost savings, carbon footprint reduction, dark sky benefits, and increased visual safety for motorists and pedestrians.

Throughout the current SCE streetlight inventory, the City has street lights ranging from 50 watts to 250 watts. In reviewing the lamps that SCE makes available through LED Replacement program, there are the following temperatures available:

- 4,000k - whiter looking light;
- 3,000k - standard and a warmer appearance which has been very successful across implementations by many agencies over the last several years;
- 2,700k – a warmer look that a few communities have utilized.

If decided to move forward under the Option E program, the City would authorize to replace 172 light owned by the City. At the same time, the City will advise the County to move forward with SCE for the replacement of 1,522 lights under account with Los Angeles County.

On November 22, 2022 staff presented the LS-1 Option E and LED replacement implementation overview to Traffic and Transportation Commission. TTC supported the staff recommendations to move forward with the program and requested to present staff suggestions about LED light temperatures to Council. Staff worked with SCE to review their recommendation and also examined existing LED street lights in the City.

The LED lights which were installed for the Lost Hills Interchange project are 4,000k. The new Old Town street lights are also 4,000k. Staff has been receiving compliments for the Old Town street lights and provided better illumination of the area, appearances and safety.



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Based on these observations, Staff recommends installation of 4,000k temperature lights on City arterials and collectors as they have higher traffic volumes and require brighter lighting which significantly improves the visibility of the roadway, increases sight distance, and makes roadside obstacles more noticeable to the driver. For the residential neighborhoods, staff recommends installation of 3,000k lights to provide warmer appearance near individual houses and comply with the City's Dark Sky Ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

LS-1 Option E includes a recovery mechanism which is embedded within the tariff, that recovers the cost of the initial installation and materials over 20 years. The savings are significantly greater than this recovery mechanism so our community will see an immediate reduction in street lighting costs. The Lighting Districts will have adjustments to their tax assessments.

There is no up-front cost to the customer and SCE manages the project from start to finish with a current wait time of approximately five months prior to commencing installation.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Staff recommends Council approves SCE LED Street Light Replacement Program and directs staff to work with SCE on its implementation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: SCE Presentation