TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

DEPARTMENT: UTILITIES

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A GRANT REQUEST TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PARTIALLY FUND BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEMS FOR INTERSECTIONS WITH LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) TRAFFIC SIGNALS

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve the attached resolution approving the filing of an application and authorizing acceptance of a grant up to $30,000 from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to partially fund the Battery Backup System (BBS) for LED traffic signals at certain critical intersections.

DISCUSSION

The Utilities Department is planning to install BBS for about ten traffic signal intersections that have been identified to be critical during emergency or planned service interruption. The BBS specified for installation will be capable of providing power to the traffic signal system for three consecutive hours of normal operation after power has been interrupted.

Since City crews are already committed to complete other on-going projects and due to inexperience in installing BBS, the decision was made to use the services of a contractor for this project. Request for bids to install BBS were mailed to five contractors and three contractors responded. The lowest responsible bidder, Republic Electric, was awarded the contract on June 25, 2002, to install ten BBS for a total contract amount of $42,000.
An opportunity exists to obtain grant funding from CEC to reimburse the City for a portion of the cost to install the BBS. An application was filed with the CEC prior to the deadline of June 21, 2002, and it is anticipated that funding for about ten to fifteen intersections will be approved. Estimated grant funding that will become available upon approval will be approximately $20,000 to $30,000.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**

Funds for this project are included in the Utilities Fiscal Year 2001-02 Budget under the Traffic Signal Upgrade Capital Improvement Program 8930.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The planning and implementation of this project are consistent with existing City policies. This project meets the objectives outlined in the Utilities Strategic Plan, specifically, No. 1 “to operate distribution systems in a cost-effective manner,” and No.7, “to implement programs that improve the quality of the environment.”

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and no further environmental review is necessary.

**ATTACHMENT**

Resolution

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Director of Utilities

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:**

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