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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Brooke A. Levin  
Interim Director, PWA

**SUBJECT:** Update Regarding LED Lighting  
Conversion Project

**DATE:** November 21, 2013

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City Administrator

Date

Approval

/s/ **Deanna J. Santana**

**11/21/13**

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### INFORMATION

The purpose of this information memo is to provide an update regarding the Oakland LED Lighting Conversion Project. The City of Oakland is currently converting 30,000 existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) cobra head streetlights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights citywide. Replacement of the existing streetlight fixtures with the new LED fixtures provides a better quality of light that will enhance public safety. In addition, the conversion project saves resources as the new LED technology is more energy efficient and the bulbs have a longer lifespan. Oakland is one of first municipalities nationally to implement or be in the process of converting wide-scale LED lighting.

The City Council approved this project to convert in 2013, and awarded the project to Amland Corp. for services and to Graybar Inc. for materials. City staff has provided maintenance support such as electrical repair, tree trimming and painting fixtures to ensure that the project is completed by December 31, 2013. The project began in June 2013 and to date the City has converted 20,014 lights out of the 30,000 (67%) streetlights city-wide. This project does not include ornamental lighting such as the fixtures near Broadway (Downtown Oakland) and the fixtures surrounding Lake Merritt.

The LED Lighting Conversion Project provides many benefits to several different audiences, with the primary goal to support public safety with brighter and better lighting, less glare and fewer 'dark spots' between poles. Significant energy savings results in lower power consumption and a healthier environment. LED streetlights require less maintenance and have a longer lifespan (15 years minimum). Separately from this project, City staff are currently exploring options regarding the installation of LED lights in ornamental lighting.

Project costs are estimated at \$15 million financed over a 10 year period. The repayment of the project cost will be paid from an estimated \$2.9 million in incentive rebates from PG&E and energy savings as a result of the conversation.

Several questions have been raised by the community as the project has been implemented. The main areas are addressed below:

1. Brightness of Lights. The primary purpose of urban street lighting is to produce safe and comfortable vision during the night on public streets and sidewalks. The LED light fixtures have dimmable capability and can be adjusted from high, medium to low. The City's Electrical Engineer will review the light warrant for the street lighting safety concerns prior to making the determination in altering lighting levels.
2. Light In Windows. Some of the existing HPS lights have a shield to block the light from coming into homes in an obtrusive way. Those existing shields are being removed as part of the installation of the LED lights. If a property owner wishes to request a new shield, they can contact the Public Works Call Center at 510-615-5566 or [PWACallCenter@oaklandnet.com](mailto:PWACallCenter@oaklandnet.com). The requests for the shield will be evaluated to assure the light is not impaired from the street area.

If there are concerns regarding LED Lights please contact the PW's Call Center at the following:

- Phone: (510) 615-5566
- Email: [pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com)
- Webpage: [www.oaklandnet.com/PWA](http://www.oaklandnet.com/PWA)
- Mobile Application: SeeClickFix

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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BROOKE A. LEVIN  
Interim Director, Public Works Agency

For questions, please contact Allen Law, Electrical Services Manager at (510) 615-5428.