



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Standardization of Traffic Signal Controller/Cabinet Systems

MEETING DATE: April 15, 1998

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the standardization of the traffic signal controller/cabinet systems.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Currently, staff is in the process of upgrading signal control equipment on Lodi Avenue. In 1978, the City Council approved the standardization of traffic signal control equipment. This was done to simplify maintenance, reduce parts inventory costs, and improve operations. The company and traffic equipment selected was Multisonics which has served the City well. However, the company has been sold several times in recent years and service has been rather unstable. In 1993, the City specified an alternate controller made by Econolite on a trial basis for a new signal project. The equipment has functioned well and we have continued to specify both Econolite and Multisonics systems.

Recently, Multisonics filed Chapter 11 and staff is reluctant to purchase any new equipment from them at this time. Multisonics has stated it will be able to provide maintenance support to our newer controller equipment; however, they could not provide details for future operation and marketing of new equipment.

Our engineering staff and electricians are now familiar with the Econolite system and want to continue using this system. Econolite has been manufacturing traffic control equipment since 1933 and introduced the first digital fixed-time controller in 1966. Thus, we are requesting City Council approve the standardization of the Econolite controller/cabinet systems and waive the formal bid process per Lodi Municipal Code, Section 3.20.070, Bidding.

Our intention is to watch the situation with Multisonics. Should the company be reorganized or acquired by another company and the service level returned to its previous status, we will add them to our specifications in order to obtain competitive pricing.

FUNDING: Not applicable.

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APPROVED:

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