



**CITY OF LODI  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Adopt resolution approving the Standardization of Solid State Meters for Residential and Small Commercial Application with Itron, of Spokane, Washington (EUD)

**MEETING DATE:** April 6, 2005

**PREPARED BY** Electric Utility Director

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the *City* Council adopt a resolution approving the standardization of solid-state meters for residential and small commercial application with Itron, of Spokane Washington.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** The metering industry has gradually moved toward solid-state meters, i.e., away from electro mechanical meters. This trend in meter technology utilization is being implemented across the power customer base such as residential, small commercial, agricultural, hospital, big commercial, industrial, etc. In August 1999, the City of Lodi approved Resolution No. 99-124 to standardize demand and time-of-use solid-state meters for big commercial and industrial customers. Majority of our single-phase meters for residential and small commercial customers are still electro-mechanical units. These meters are only available as special order items and are marginally supported due to the age of the technology.

With solid-state meters, each manufacturer uses proprietary and distinct protocol, programming, testing, troubleshooting, data processing software and communication devices. The user of such meters, like the City of Lodi, has to maintain each manufacturer's software, hardware and system upgrades. User has to train staff to efficiently work with the different meter units and systems thus making the metering tasks complex.

We purchase approximately 576 meters for residential and small commercial installation annually. These single-phase meters are priced from \$33 to \$65 per unit depending on the complexity of the meter with the vast majority being in the \$33 range.

Considering cost to the *C i* for maintaining software and hardware systems, periodic upgrades from each manufacturer as well as staff training time on the various systems coupled with the relatively **low** volume of meters purchased yearly, it is recommended that the City Council authorize the standardization of solid state meters with Itron.

The proposed Itron system is compatible with the *C i s* existing programming, data retrieval and processing equipment. The **City** owns the latest software, software support and necessary hardware for the Schlumberger system. In December 2004, Itron acquired Schlumberger and all its meter businesses. Itron is also a leading company in development and deployment of the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology. Itron solid-state meters for residential and small commercial are scalable to AMR application. The *City* would be positioned to advance its meter reading responsibility from the usual

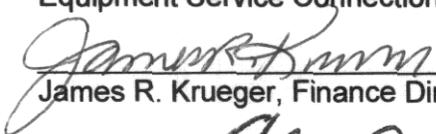
**APPROVED:**   
Blair King, City Manager

'walk-by' process to 'drive-by' method or migrate directly to 'network' system. There are other benefits that could be derived from Itron meter deployment both tangibles and intangibles.

The metering industry is considering developing a protocol and equipment that can be utilized on all manufacturers' products. However, such standard protocol and equipment is years away from being marketed. When such standard protocol and equipment is available, the City will be considering meters from all manufacturers.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** Currently budgeted in Business Unit 161653 and 161656  
Equipment Service Connections

  
James R. Krueger, Finance Director

  
Alan N. Vallow  
Electric Utility Director

**PREPARED BY** Demy Bucaneg, Sr. Power Engineer

ANV/DB/lst

cc: City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-64

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL  
APPROVING STANDARDIZATION OF SOLID STATE  
METERS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL  
COMMERCIAL APPLICATION WITH ITRON

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WHEREAS, the meter industry has gradually moved toward solid state meters i.e., away from electro mechanical meters; and

WHEREAS, this trend in meter technology utilization is being implemented across the power customer base such as residential, small commercial, agricultural, hospital, big commercial, industrial, etc.; and

WHEREAS, in August 1999, the Lodi City Council approved Resolution No. 99-124 to standardize demand and time-of-use solid-state meters for big commercial and industrial customers. A majority of Lodi's single-phase meters for residential and small commercial customers are still electro-mechanical units. These meters are only available as special order items and are marginally supported due to the age of the technology; and

WHEREAS, with solid-state meters, each manufacturer uses proprietary and distinct protocol, programming, testing, troubleshooting, data processing software, and communication devices. The user of such meters, like the City of Lodi, has to maintain each manufacturer's software, hardware, and system upgrades. User has to train staff to efficiently work with the different meter units and systems thus making the metering tasks complex; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lodi purchases approximately 576 meters for residential and small commercial installation annually, and these single-phase meters are priced from \$33 to \$65 per unit depending on the complexity of the meter, with the vast majority being in the \$33 range; and

WHEREAS, considering cost to the City for maintaining software and hardware systems and periodic upgrades from each manufacturer, as well as staff training time on the various systems coupled with the relatively low volume of meters purchased yearly, it is recommended that the City Council **authorize the standardization of solid state** meters and acquiring these meters from one manufacturer, **Itron**, of Spokane, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Itron system is compatible with the City's existing programming, data retrieval, and processing equipment. The City owns the latest software, software support, and necessary hardware for the Schlumberger system. In December 2004, Itron acquired Schlumberger and all its meter businesses; and

WHEREAS, Itron is also a leading company in development and deployment of the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology. Itron solid-state meters for residential and small commercial are scalable to AMR application. The City would be positioned to

advance its meter reading responsibility from the usual "walk-by" process to "drive-by" method or migrate directly to "network" system. There are other benefits that could be derived from Itron meter deployment, both tangibles and intangibles; and

WHEREAS, the metering industry is considering developing a protocol and equipment that can be utilized on all manufacturers' products; however, such standard protocol and equipment is years away from being marketed. When such standard protocol and equipment is available, the City will be considering meters from all manufacturers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council does hereby approve the standardization of solid state meters from one manufacturer, Itron, of Spokane, Washington.

Dated: April 6, 2005

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2005-64 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held April 6, 2005, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Johnson, Mounce, and  
Mayor Beckman

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON  
City Clerk