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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 18, 1982

STANDARDIZATION  
OF ELECTRIC PANALS  
APPROVED

Following a report and recommendation from Staff, Council, by motion action under the Consent Calendar, voted to standardize low voltage electrical panels as manufactured by the Square D Company.



# CITY OF LODI

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**DATE:** August 5, 1982  
**SUBJECT:** Standardization of Low Voltage Electrical Panels

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the City Council standardize low voltage electrical panels. The recommended standard to be manufactured by the "Square D" Company.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The City's low voltage electrical panels are used to control equipment such as water wells, sewage and storm water pumps, park lighting and public buildings. Generally, the Utility Department selects, purchases and installs the panels in these facilities for other City Departments.

The cost of these panels is now exceeding the \$5,000 informal bid limit. Purchasing them under formal bidding would more than likely provide the City with panels by many different manufacturers. A major problem with this is one of spare parts availability. Electrical components are generally not interchangeable from manufacturer to manufacturer. This would mean that the City would have to stock parts for each specific panel; in many cases, duplicating parts of similar function.

Choosing a supplier based solely upon low bid would not solve the problem. It has been the Utility Department's experience that of the six or so major electrical equipment manufacturers, none are consistently low bidders on equipment. Factors such as reliability, repair costs, serviceability, and parts availability play a much larger role in keeping the equipment in service economically.

The City currently has over 40 low voltage panels in operation. Most of these panels were manufactured by the "Square D" Company. They have proven to be of high quality and excellent reliability. All contain components manufactured by "Square D" with parts readily available in Stockton or from the manufacturer. Parts for older panels are likewise available or easily fitted with new style components. Utility Department experience has shown that parts for other brand name, older equipment are no longer available and that there are no reasonable substitutes. The City Electricians have noted that "Square D" panels require only periodic maintenance and are well organized internally and easily serviced.

Many of these low voltage panels are not "off the shelf" items; they are built for specific customer application, thus it is necessary for the manufacturer to lay out and design such panels. The "Square D" Company has engineering staff located in Stockton, Sacramento, and Los Angeles and during the design stage their planning and design engineers have been readily available to City Staff providing expert service. This has enabled the City to obtain many specialized, high quality, low maintenance control panels.

APPROVED:

HENRY A. GLAVES, City Manager

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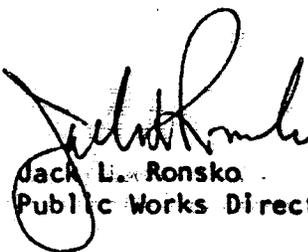
Features such as:

- Quality workmanship
- Reliable components
- Availability of parts
- Ease of serviceability
- Low maintenance

Availability of engineering services prompts the recommendation that low voltage panels for City facilities be standardized as "Square D" equipment.

For the Council's information, the City of Lodi has previously standardized the following equipment:

- Water meters
- Fire hydrants
- Propeller pumps and motors
- Traffic signal controllers



Jack L. Ronsko  
Public Works Director



David K. Curry  
Utility Director

JLR/ML/meq