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# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



**KAREN BASS**  
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS**

**BUREAU OF  
STREET LIGHTING**

**MIGUEL SANGALANG**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90015-2213

<https://lalights.lacity.org/>

E-mail: [bsl.streetlighting@lacity.org](mailto:bsl.streetlighting@lacity.org)

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 340

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MAYOR'S FISCAL YEAR 25/26 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Dear Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide context and comments on the Mayor's Proposed Budget. I also thank the Mayor and her team for exploring every option to preserve the staff of the Bureau of Street Lighting as the City navigates these challenging times.

Like many of our sister Departments, we continue to grapple with shrinking resources in the face of rising demand for our services. We have deployed new strategies that have improved our efficiency in delivering lighting services to Los Angeles, but the scale of damage due to vandalism coupled with deferred maintenance dwarfs our progress. *Fundamentally, the fiscal model of the Bureau is unsustainable and we are no longer able to operate our service territory.*

Given this reality the Bureau will be presenting to the Council and Mayor in the coming summer months a proposed ballot for a new Districtwide Assessment that right-sizes revenues to today's operational needs; however, our reliance on the County to collect the Assessment means the earliest the City can realize new revenues will be in FY26/27, if the ballot passes. This context is important as the committee considers the Proposed Budget for the Bureau. In terms of service impacts of the proposed budget I will discuss: repair times; hiring hall; and the DWP power bill.

### **CORE SERVICE OF LIGHTING AND LONGER REPAIR TIMES**

The number one service of BSL is the adequate lighting of the Right-of-Way and is affected by our ability to repair outages. The Bureau now averages eight (8) months to repair outage service requests, with the repair times expected to grow to nearly a year by fall 2025 primarily due to reduced staffing, hiring hall reductions, and overtime loss in FY24/25.

The proposed budget primarily eliminates vacant positions and minimizes filled position reductions for BSL as a result of increased revenue assumptions. These revenues are assumed from an “in-contracting” MOU called out in Exhibit H and are currently being negotiated by the CAO and DWP. In essence, BSL would reassign staff to projects contracted from DWP to generate revenue. Until projects are determined the impact to BSL will be unknown, however the revenue target can conceivably reassign most of the Bureau’s SLMAF-funded electrical crews in Maintenance, Fortification, and Restoration to DWP projects, nearly halting streetlight repairs. Relatedly, further reductions in Hiring Hall and Overtime are immediate impacts to BSL capacity. **As a result, the Bureau’s response times may double to more than two (2) years.**

The Bureau has no alternative offset available and would require either General Fund or another flexible source in order to repair streetlights. Without the MOU or an alternative, BSL would have to eliminate over 100 positions to balance its budget. If the ballot for the Assessment were to pass in Fall of 2025, BSL would be able to return to repairing streetlights in FY26/27.

### **SUPPORT FOR SERVICES - HIRING HALL AND FIBER RELATED POSITIONS**

The Union Hiring Hall has been used by the Bureau either to augment field forces or to bring in more specialized labor. The Proposed Budget will eliminate half of BSL’s Hiring Hall budget, reducing it to approximately \$1M. Hiring Hall staff are not technically direct City employees, but will ultimately result in the loss of 12 staff and further reduce the number of crews BSL can field.

Within the last few weeks, the Bureau has received an advance payment of \$4M as part of a joint build agreement with the State of California to build 13.5 miles of conduit and fiber along the 110 Freeway. A motion and Ordinance is currently in process to formally accept and allocate the funds. BSL proposes to offset the Hiring Hall reduction and one (1) Fiber Maintenance & Construction Helper position to support the joint build construction. The project is one-time in nature, aligning to the use of Hiring Hall and its needed expertise, and the single position can be absorbed in future years providing that the Assessment Ballot is successful. Details can be found on **Addendum I**.

### **ELECTRICAL POWER BILL**

Similarly to this current fiscal year, the Proposed Budget partially funds \$12.9M of the Bureau’s total expected electricity costs of \$20.2M. The Bureau has no alternative offset available and would require either the General Fund or another flexible source to meet its obligations. Should the Bureau’s Assessment Ballot be successful, we would be able to pay outstanding bills in FY26/27 and beyond.

### **PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES FOR POSITION ELIMINATIONS**

The positions proposed for elimination will have an outsized effect on Bureau operations as support functions have been critical to drive efficiencies. To help minimize impacts and maintain consistent operations, the Bureau has the following positions that it requests to retain for the FY 25-26 budget, two of which are currently filled. These support functions are also difficult to replace with important oversight on field operations and information technology operations.

- 1 Management Assistant - Regular
- 1 Street Lighting Engineer - Regular (Currently Filled)
- 1 Street Lighting Engineer - Reso - Transportation Grant Program
- 1 Senior Management Analyst - Regular (Currently Filled)
- 1 Chief Management Analyst - Regular
- 1 Senior Systems Analyst I - Regular

The Bureau is proposing the following positions as offsets to the above requests:

- 1 Civil Engineering Drafting Technician - Reso - Metro Annual Work Program
- 2 Street Lighting Engineering Associate II - Reso - Co-location Program
- 1 Street Lighting Engineering Associate III - Reso - Co-location Program
- 3 Electrical Craft Helpers - Reso - Co-location Program
- 1 Street Lighting Electrician - Reso - Co-location Program
- 1 Assistant Street Lighting Electrician - Reso - Co-location Program

Details can be found on **Addendum I**

### **CONCLUSION**

While the Proposed Budget's position eliminations appear to be comparably less drastic in the Street Lighting than our sister departments, I want to be clear that there will be immediate service degradation. The Bureau must succeed in redeploying nearly a quarter of its staff from its core service of lighting to revenue-generating projects or face the prospect of over 100 filled position eliminations, either choice resulting in less streetlighting repairs.

The above strategy will also rely on the passage of a new Assessment to right-size BSL's operations in order for us to return to Streetlighting repairs. According to a recently released third party report by Matrix, Street Lighting already faces a minimum \$55M deficit for its operations, reinforcing the fact that BSL's fiscal model is fundamentally unsustainable. Without new sources of revenue, the Bureau will need to reexamine its operations to match expenditures to revenues, which could result in longer repair times, or the reduction of its service territory.

Despite the uncertainty of the future, we at BSL remain committed to serving Los Angeles. I believe that throughout the years, the women and men of the Bureau have built an efficient and effective agency and machine that helps improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It now just needs to refuel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Sangalang", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miguel Sangalang  
Director, Bureau of Street Lighting

## **ADDENDUM I**

### **SUPPORT FOR SERVICES - HIRING HALL AND FIBER RELATED POSITIONS**

The Motion in Council File 25-0333 will allow the Bureau to accept up to \$8,629,089.95 for the Joint Build with the State for conduit and fiber along the 110 freeway. \$4,314,544.98 has been sent to the Bureau in a check for the project. The Motion instructs funding of the check to be sent to the Digital Inclusion Fund (65Q/50) and then sent to the following BSL operational accounts for current work:

Fund 100/Dept 84/Account 001010 (Salaries) - \$730,000  
Fund 100/Dept 84/Account 001090 (Overtime) - \$280,000  
Fund 100/Dept 84/Account 001100 (Hiring Hall Salaries) - \$170,000  
Fund 100/Dept 84/Account 001100 (Hiring Hall Benefits) - \$110,000

The Bureau requests the following positions slated to be eliminated be retained to assist on this project, using the above funding:

Maintenance & Construction Helper (Position P149118)  
Welder (Position 068339)  
Mechanical Helper (Position P141552)

The incoming hiring hall funds for the initial check are requested to help retain existing hiring hall staff.

### **PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES FOR POSITION ELIMINATIONS**

Positions requested to retain:

1 Management Assistant - Regular - P038979  
1 Street Lighting Engineer - Regular (Currently Filled) - P039110  
1 Street Lighting Engineer - Reso - Transportation Grant Program - P039101  
1 Senior Management Analyst - Regular (Currently Filled) - P039183  
1 Chief Management Analyst - Regular - P068348  
1 Senior Systems Analyst I - Regular - P039027

Positions requested to eliminate as an offset:

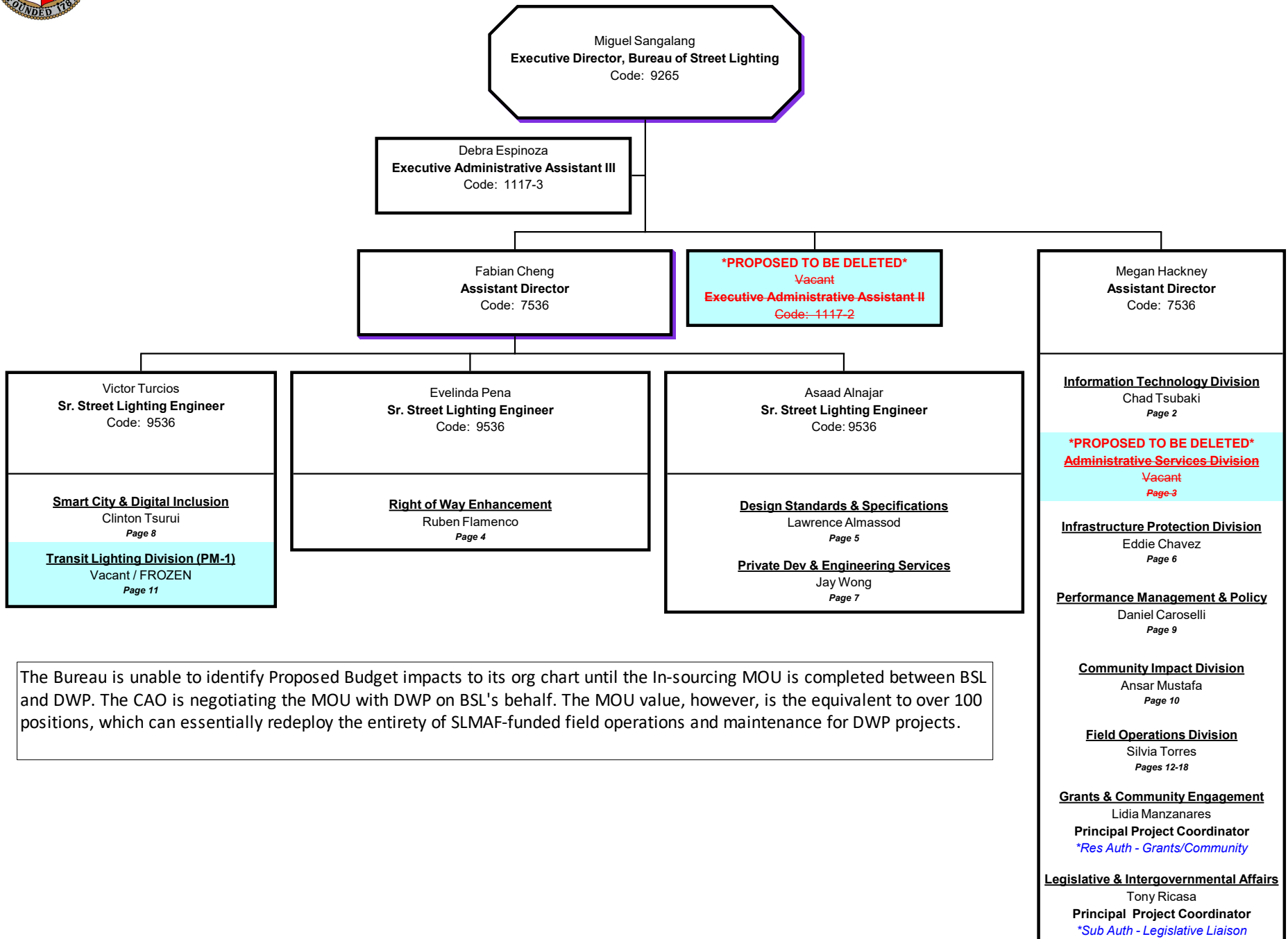
1 Civil Engineering Drafting Technician - Reso - Metro Annual Work Program - P038924  
2 Street Lighting Engineering Associate II - Reso - Co-location Program - P039092, P039077  
1 Street Lighting Engineering Associate III - Reso - Co-location Program - P039081  
3 Electrical Craft Helpers - Reso - Co-location Program - P039002, P039003, P039004  
1 Street Lighting Electrician - Reso - Co-location Program - P038945  
1 Assistant Street Lighting Electrician - Reso - Co-location Program - P038960

Offset positions from the co-location program would have the least impact in Bureau operations. The last year has seen a 50% decrease in site permit submittals and a 65% reduction in construction of foundations. These resources will be transferred to the Urban Transit Amenities Program as approved in the Mayor's proposed budget.



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING - 989

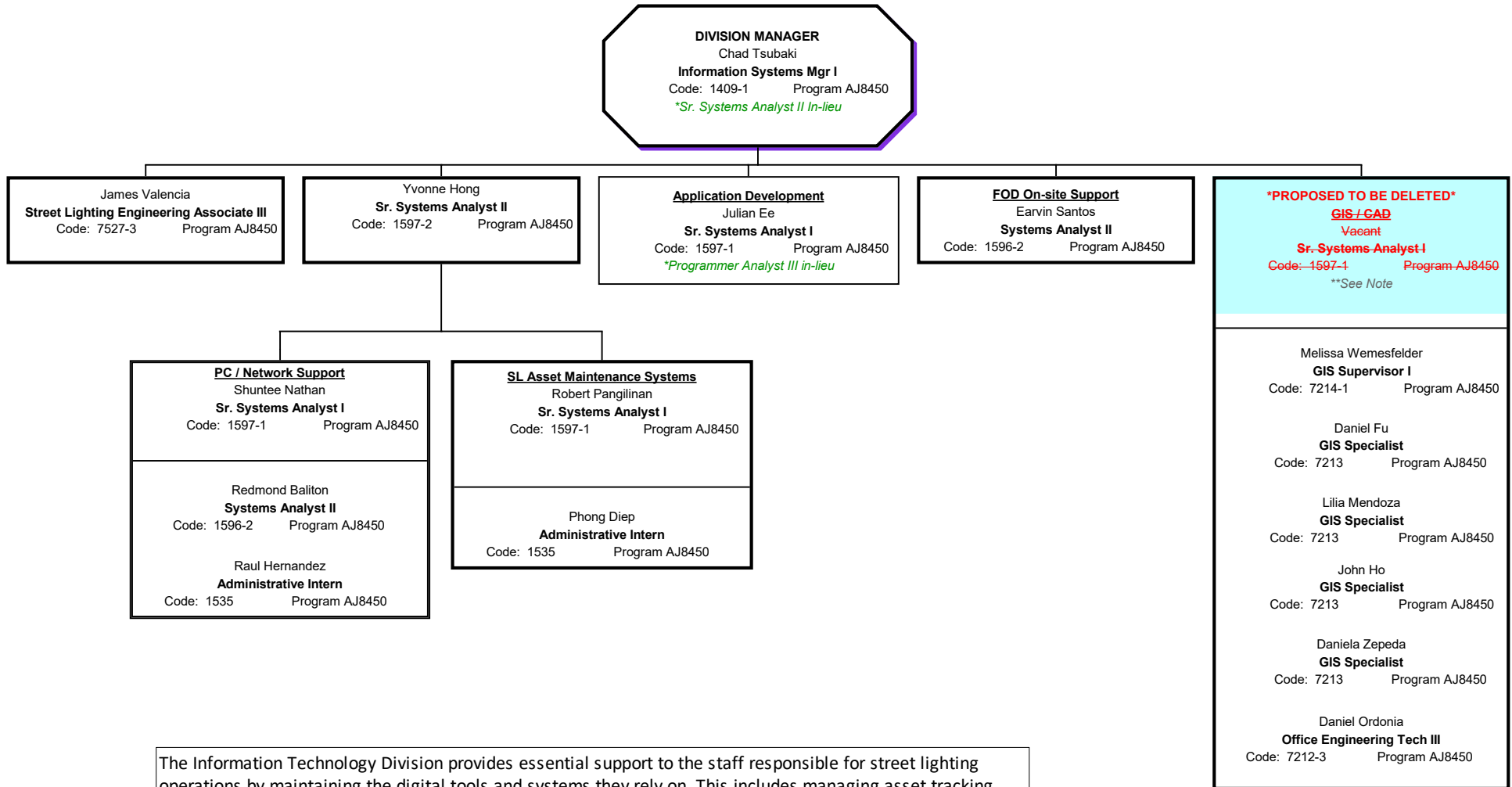
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# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION - 889

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The Information Technology Division provides essential support to the staff responsible for street lighting operations by maintaining the digital tools and systems they rely on. This includes managing asset tracking databases, mobile field applications, real-time monitoring platforms, and communication networks. The division ensures these systems are secure, up-to-date, and integrated, allowing field crews and engineers to work efficiently, respond to outages quickly, and make data-informed decisions to maintain and improve street lighting services across the city.

Note:  
\*\* - BSL proposes to keep position. See Addendum 1 Off set

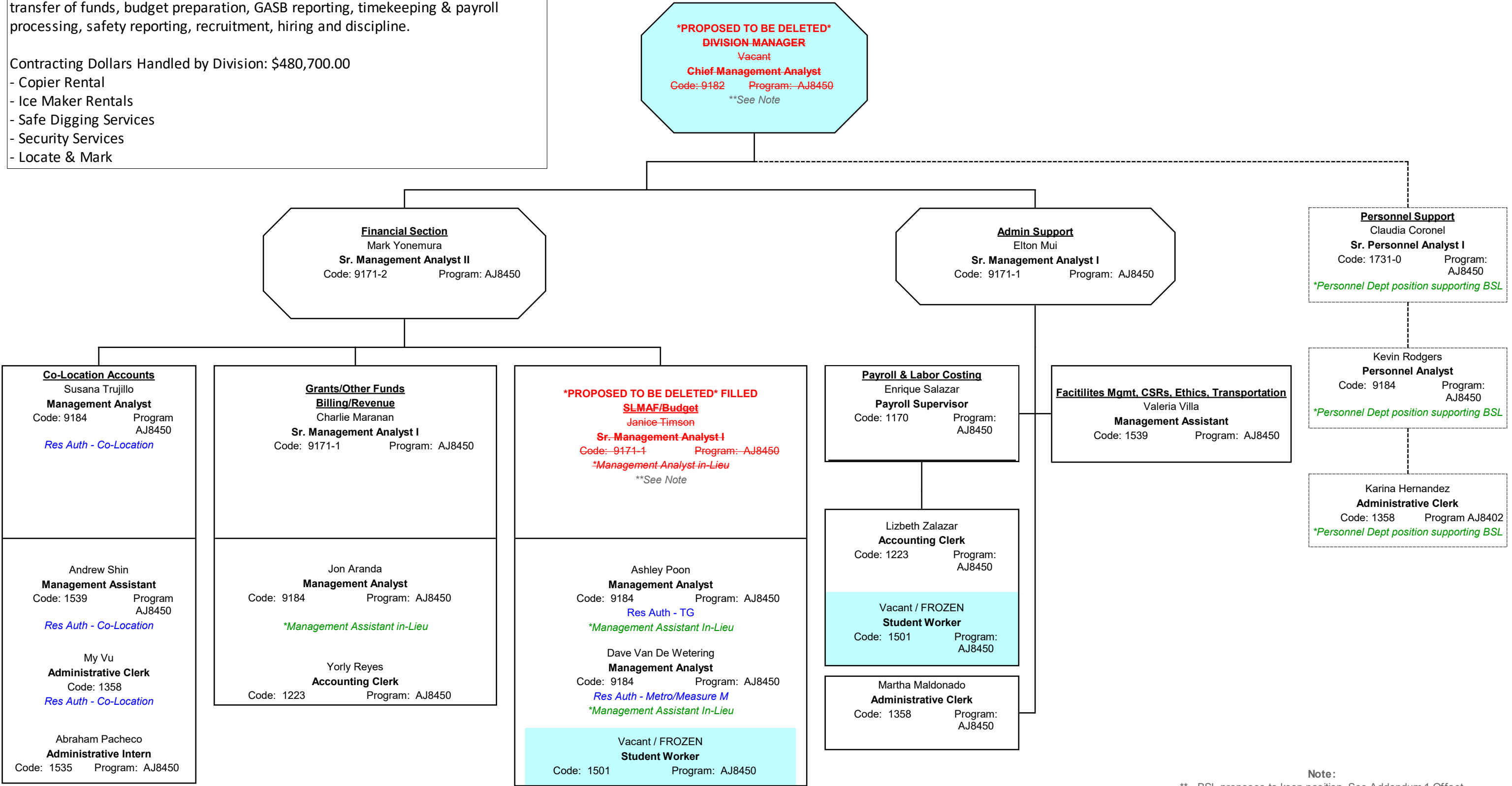


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - 189

The Admin Services Division oversees budget, payroll and personnel for the Bureau. This includes procurement, billings and revenue collection, grant administration, transfer of funds, budget preparation, GASB reporting, timekeeping & payroll processing, safety reporting, recruitment, hiring and discipline.

Contracting Dollars Handled by Division: \$480,700.00

- Copier Rental
- Ice Maker Rentals
- Safe Digging Services
- Security Services
- Locate & Mark

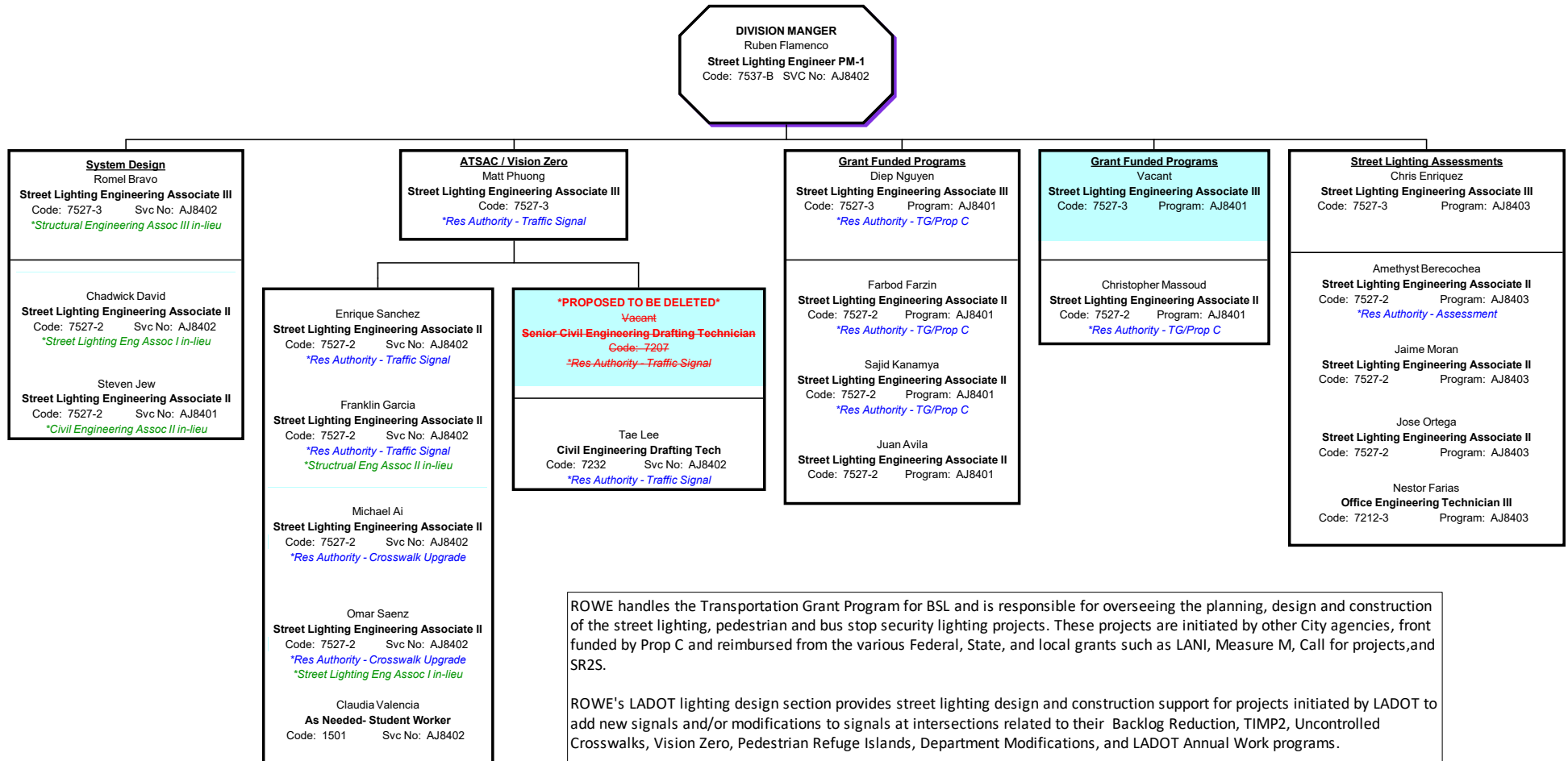


Note:  
\*\* - BSL proposes to keep position. See Addendum 1 Offset



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING RIGHT OF WAY ENHANCEMENT DIVISION

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ROWE handles the Transportation Grant Program for BSL and is responsible for overseeing the planning, design and construction of the street lighting, pedestrian and bus stop security lighting projects. These projects are initiated by other City agencies, front funded by Prop C and reimbursed from the various Federal, State, and local grants such as LANI, Measure M, Call for projects, and SR25.

ROWE's LADOT lighting design section provides street lighting design and construction support for projects initiated by LADOT to add new signals and/or modifications to signals at intersections related to their Backlog Reduction, TIMP2, Uncontrolled Crosswalks, Vision Zero, Pedestrian Refuge Islands, Department Modifications, and LADOT Annual Work programs.

ROWE provides street lighting designs for BOE storm drain projects, as well as projects initiated by Caltrans.

ROWE handles street lighting Assessments, new lighting districts, and the upcoming citywide ballot.

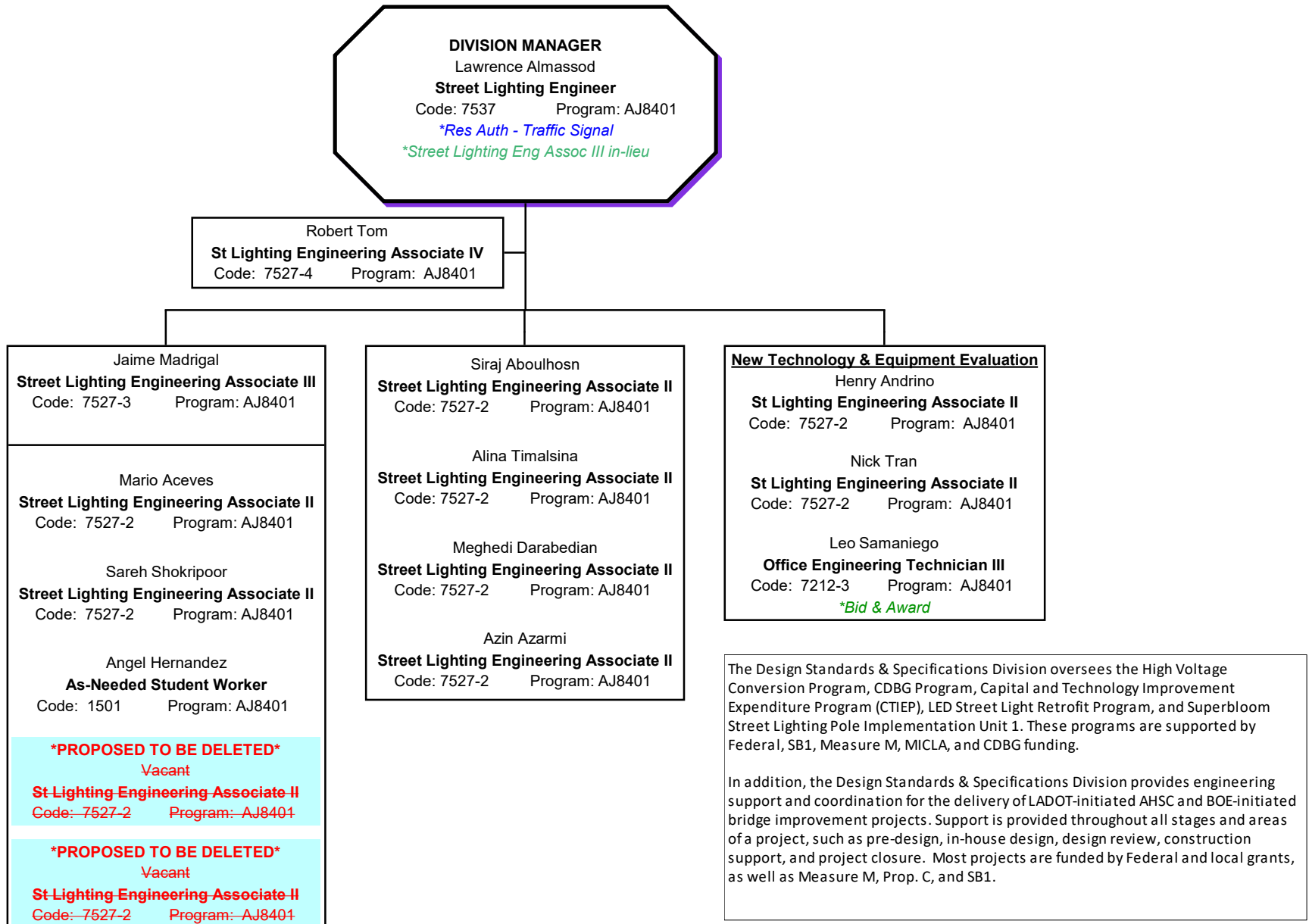
## Contracting Dollars Handled by Division: \$11,400.00

- Copier Rental
- Assessment Collection Services
- Microfiche Services (County Assessment Maps)



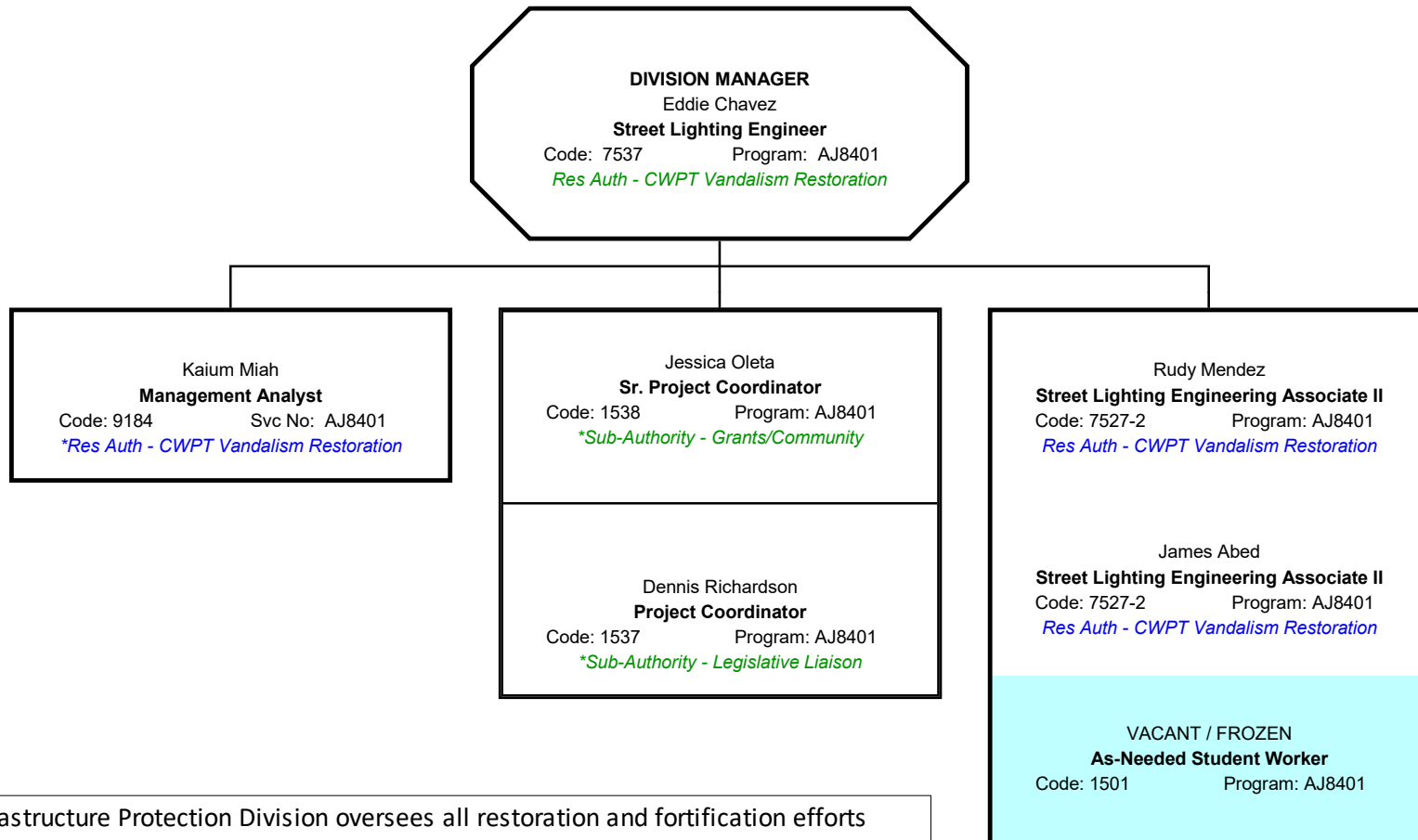
# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING DESIGN STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS DIVISION

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# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION DIVISION - 216

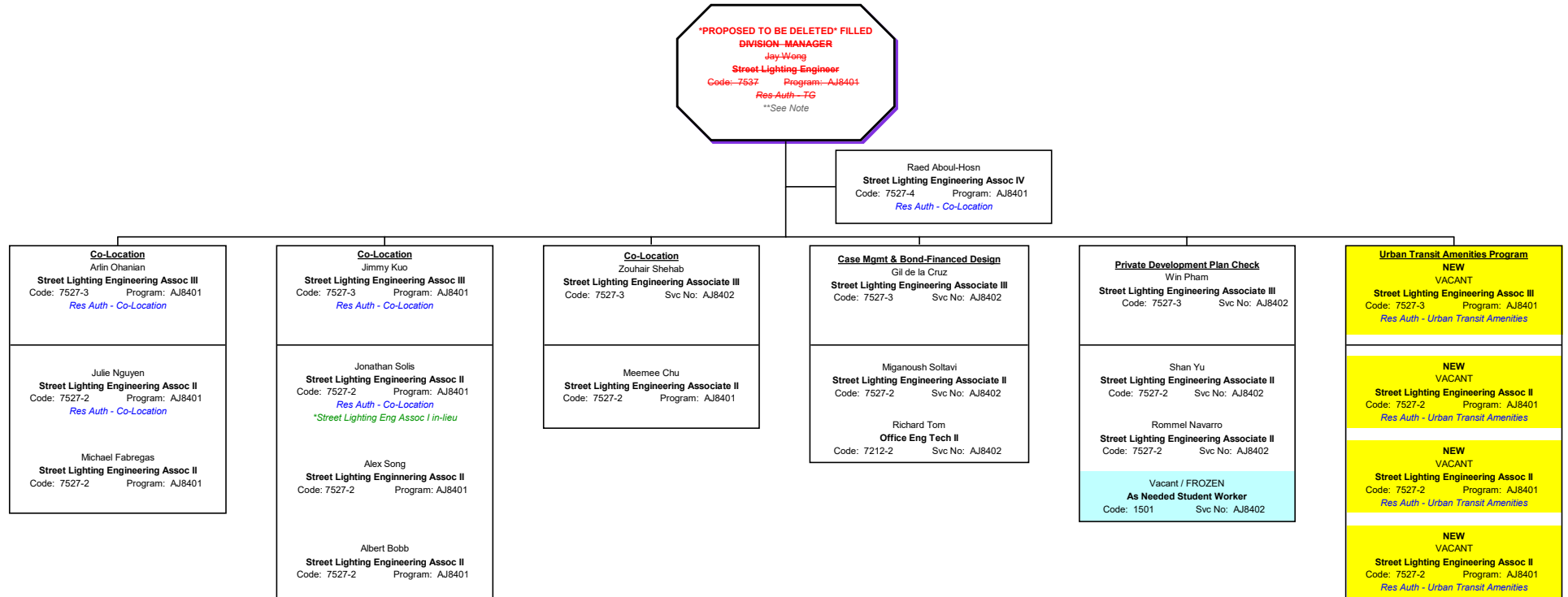


The Infrastructure Protection Division oversees all restoration and fortification efforts integrated into our strategic plan to combat CWPT. Additionally, IPD collects data on all activities related to our mitigation strategies, enabling the BSL to track their effectiveness. IPD also leads recent pilot projects featuring solar-powered streetlights, which have demonstrated promise as resilient, off-grid alternatives to ensure continuous lighting.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

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The Private Development and Engineering Services Division oversees all street lighting-related components associated with private development projects citywide. Key responsibilities of the Private Development Division include: Reviewing and approving A-Permits for minor street lighting work, such as relocations or temporary installations; Managing B-Permit street lighting plans for larger, more complex developments involving new lighting systems or major infrastructure modifications; Conducting inspections to ensure proper installation and code compliance; Providing technical guidance to developers and design professionals throughout the permitting process; Coordinating with other City departments to streamline project delivery and maintain consistency in public infrastructure improvements.

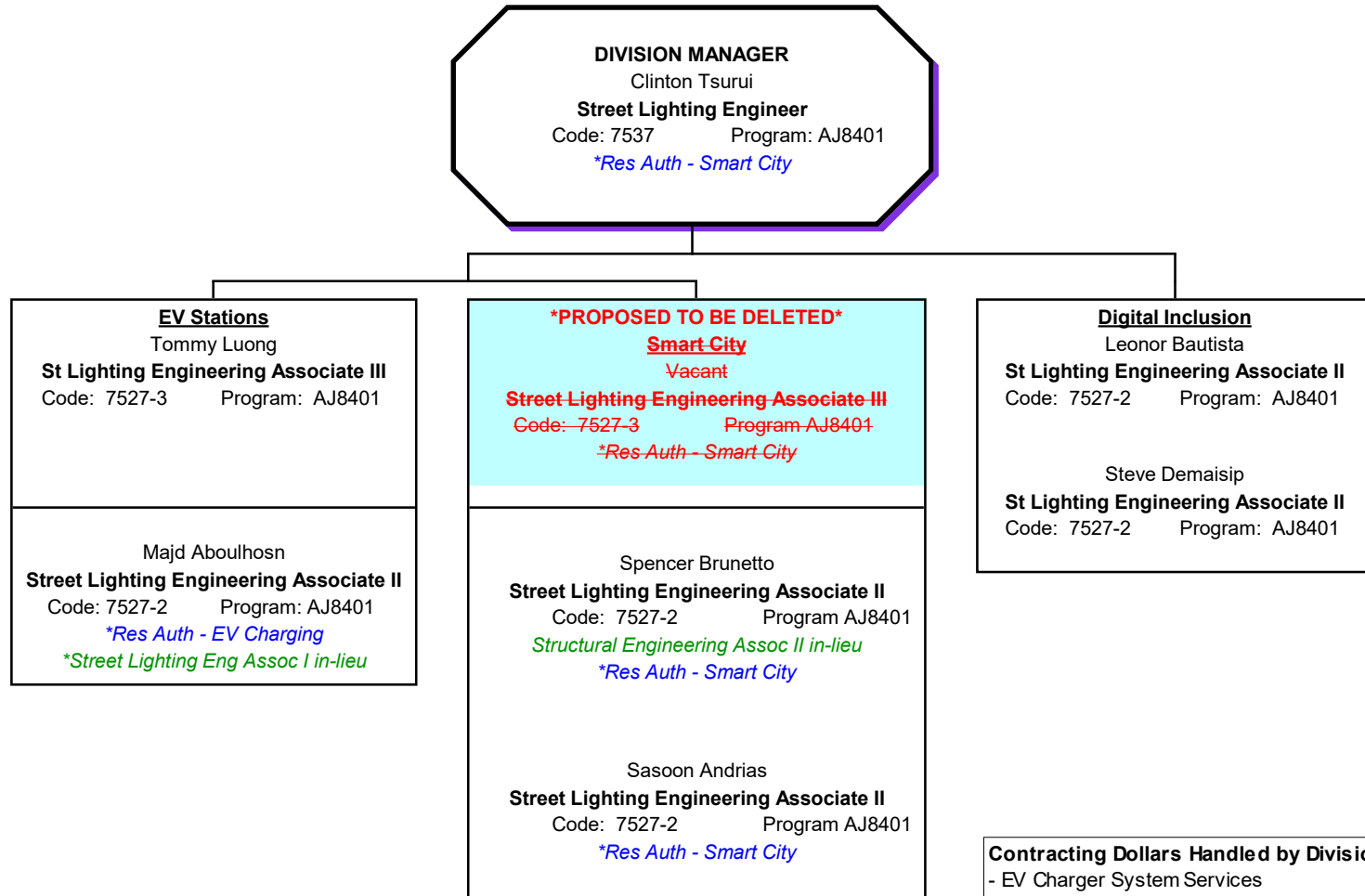
This Division also processes Co-location Permits (Telecom Attachments), managing the integration of telecommunications infrastructure with the City's street lighting systems.

Note:  
\*\* - BSL Proposes to keep position. See Addendum 1 Offset



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING SMART CITY & DIGITAL INCLUSION DIVISION

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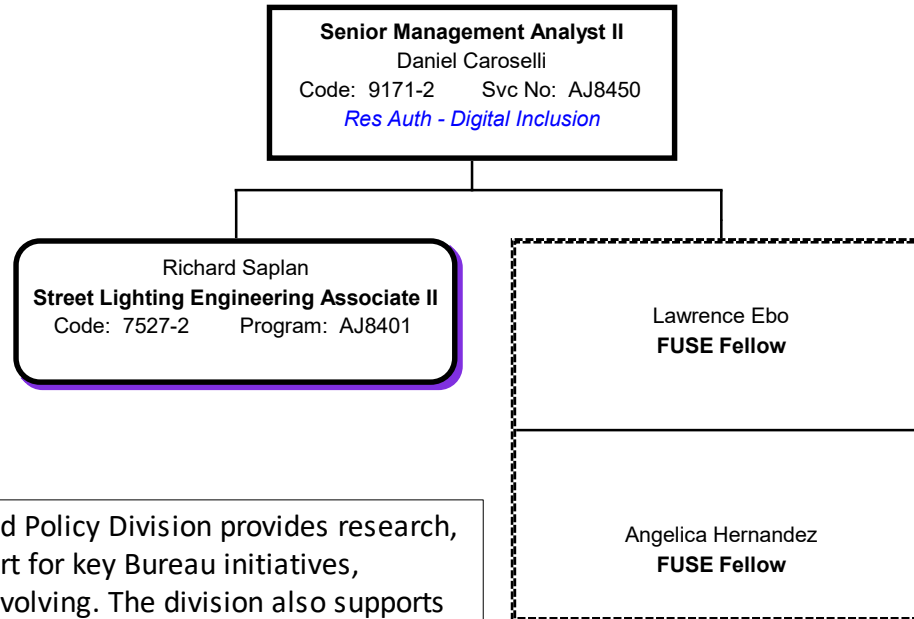


The Smart City & Digital Inclusion division leads the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Program, which includes strategic planning for new installations and comprehensive maintenance of over 800 existing charging stations. The division also manages the majority of Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure (excluding Co-Lo) integrated with city streetlights, encompassing the oversight of smart nodes, cameras, and various sensors currently under deployment. Additionally, the division administers a Streetlight as a Service (SaaS) program, enabling external agencies to leverage city-owned poles for their equipment deployment needs. Committed to advancing the city's "smart" agenda, the division actively researches and evaluates innovative equipment for integration with streetlight infrastructure. Finally, the Smart City & Digital Inclusion division manages the installation of BSL-owned fiber conduit, including a significant partnership with the state that will facilitate the build-out of nearly 13 miles of fiber conduit.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & POLICY

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The Performance Management and Policy Division provides research, mapping, and management support for key Bureau initiatives, especially those that are new or evolving. The division also supports regular management meetings and coordination across divisions. This division

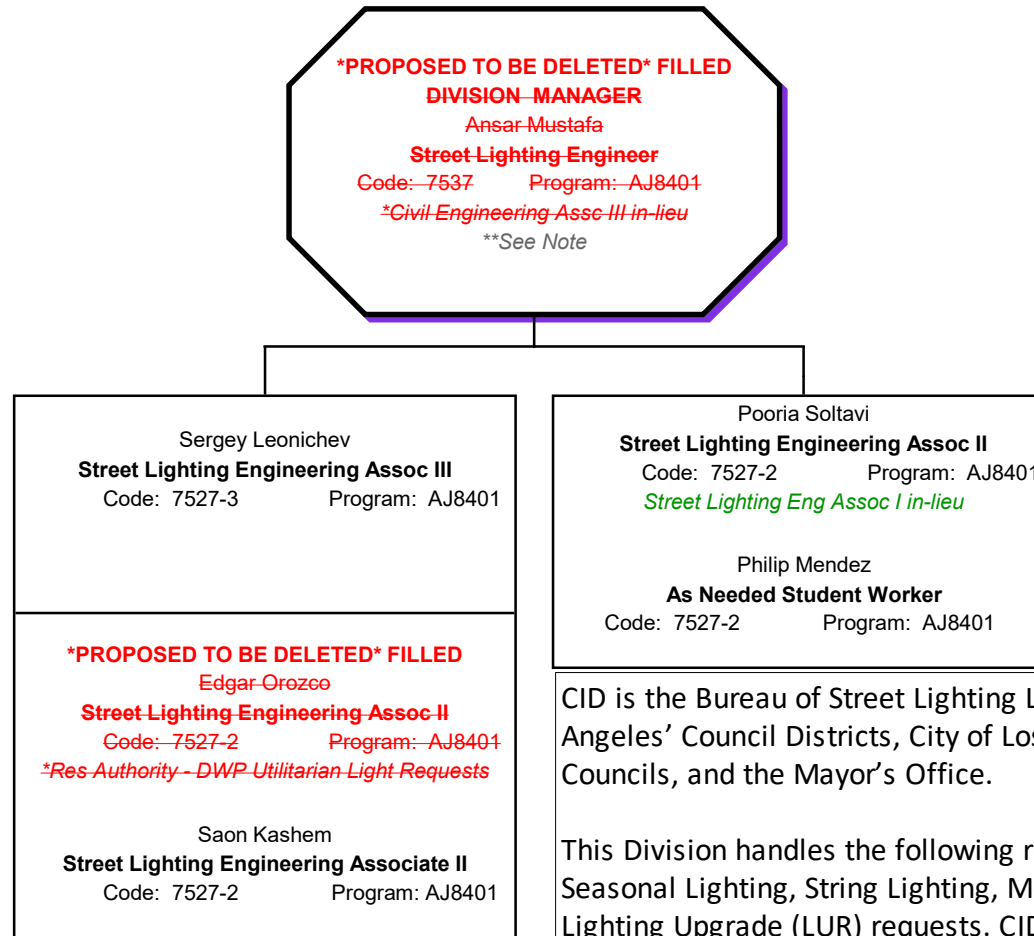
**Contracting Dollars Handled by Division: \$280,000.00**

- FUSE Fellow



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING COMMUNITY IMPACT DIVISION - 289

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CID is the Bureau of Street Lighting Liaisons for all 15 City of Los Angeles' Council Districts, City of Los Angeles' Neighborhood Councils, and the Mayor's Office.

This Division handles the following requests: Banner Requests, Seasonal Lighting, String Lighting, Medallion installs and individual Lighting Upgrade (LUR) requests. CID also provides permits for Glare Shields, Neighborhood Watch Signs (NWS), Outdoor Area Lighting (OAL), and holiday attachments. The division assists with CDBG applications initiated by Council Districts and all council requests for lighting upgrades and community engagement.

**Note:**

\*\* - BSL proposes to keep position. See Addendum 1 Offset



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
TRANSIT LIGHTING DIVISION - 213

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Vacant  
**Street Lighting Engineer/PM-1**  
Code: 7537-B Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth - Metro/Measure M*

**Measure M**  
Paul Wang  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc IV**  
Code: 7527-4 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Measure M*

**Measure M**  
Vacant  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc IV**  
Code: 7527-4 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Measure M*

The Transit Division provides engineering support and coordination for the delivery of Metro and LAWA/LAX projects. Support is provided throughout all stages and areas of a project, such as pre-design, in-house design, design review, construction support, and project closure. Currently, over 30 Metro projects are being managed at different stages of design and construction. Most are multiyear projects that are directly related to rail, bus, and bike projects. Many projects have also been placed on an accelerated timeline in order to deliver them before the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics. The review and approval of these projects are governed by the Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA) between the City of Los Angeles and Metro which requires that reviews be completed within 20 days. Failure to meet the review and design periods described in the MCA will cause the City to be subject to time delay claims made by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) which could be costly. Most projects are funded via Measure M and Prop. C.

Prime Hein  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc III**  
Code: arabedian 7527-3 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth - Metro/Prop C*

Jonathan Cohen  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc III**  
Code: 7527-3 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Prop C*

Michael Morton  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Prop C*

Lang Dam  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth Metro/Prop C*

Rafael Romo  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth Metro/Measure M*  
*\*Street Lighting Eng Assoc I in-lieu*

Mark Libuit  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Measure M*

Mehrbanoos Farehi  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*Res Auth Metro/Prop C*

Andrea Todesco  
**Civil Engineering Drafting Tech**  
Code: 7232 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth Metro/Prop C*

Samantha Iraheta  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Measure M*

Vacant  
**Street Lighting Engineering Assoc II**  
Code: 7527-2 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Authority - Metro/Measure M*

**\*PROPOSED TO BE DELETED\***  
Vacant  
**Civil Engineering Drafting Tech**  
Code: 7232 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth Metro/Prop C*

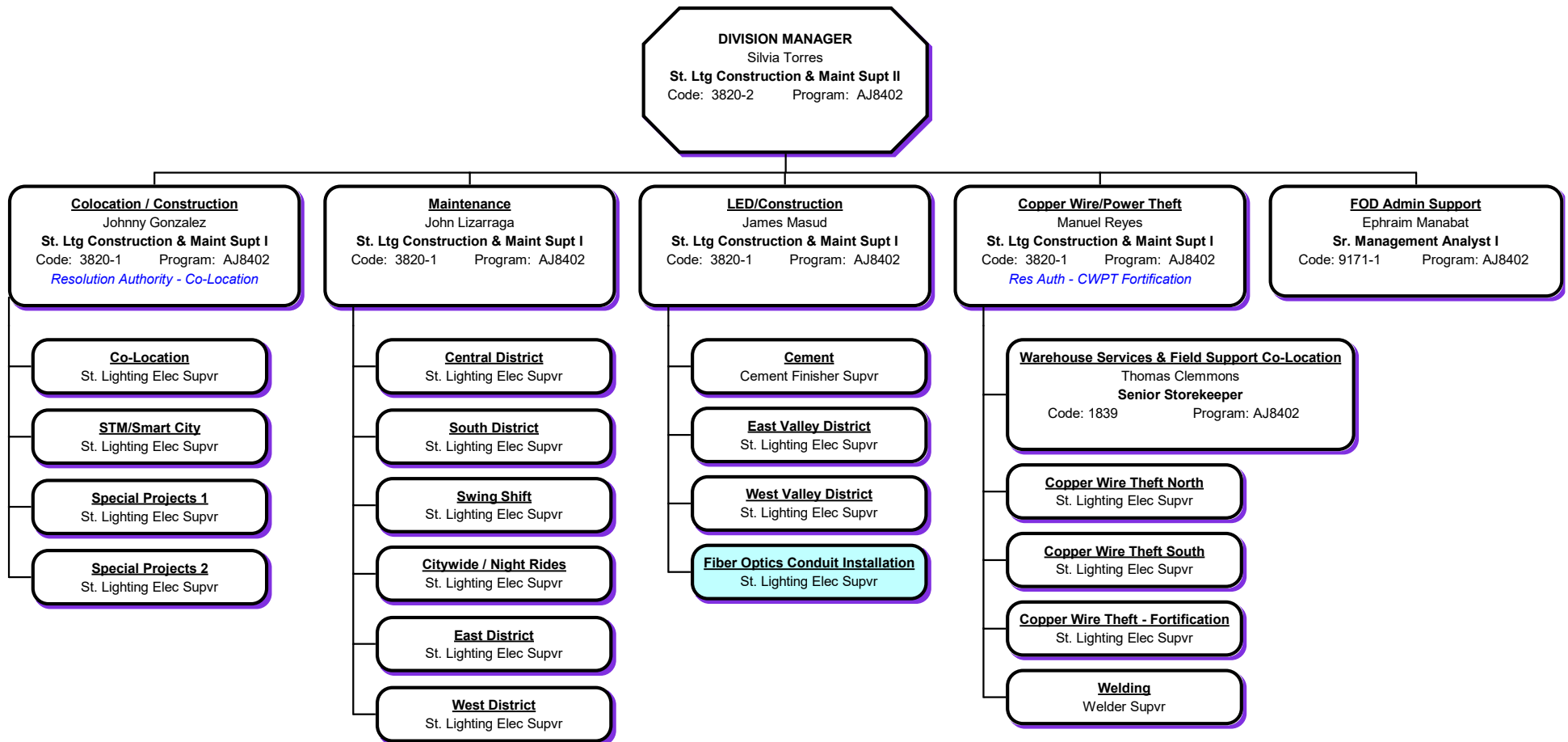
Ruben Arevalos  
**Civil Engineering Drafting Tech**  
Code: 7232 Svc No: AJ8401  
*\*Res Auth Metro/Prop C*



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING

## FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - 319, 339, 359

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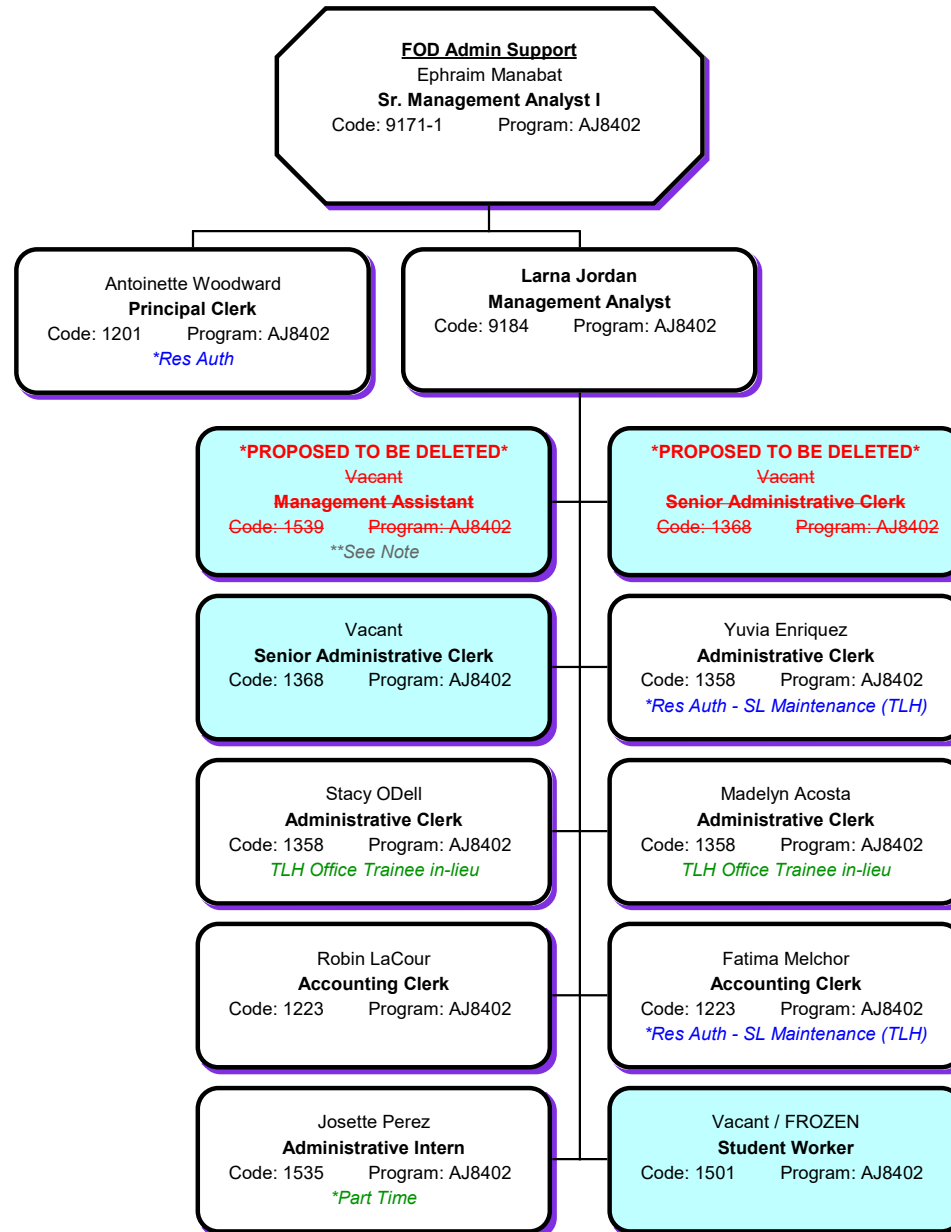


The Bureau's Field Operations Division (FOD) is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and operations of more than 223,000 streetlights in the City of Los Angeles, providing construction support for various street lighting projects, overseeing fleet coordination and warehouse activities, and coordinating with engineering for testing and equipment evaluations. The division is split into 4 groups - Maintenance, Copper Wire Theft/Vandalism, Co-location, and Special Projects (VZ, EV, TG, Fiber, BOE/BSS/LADOT support).



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - 319, 339, 359

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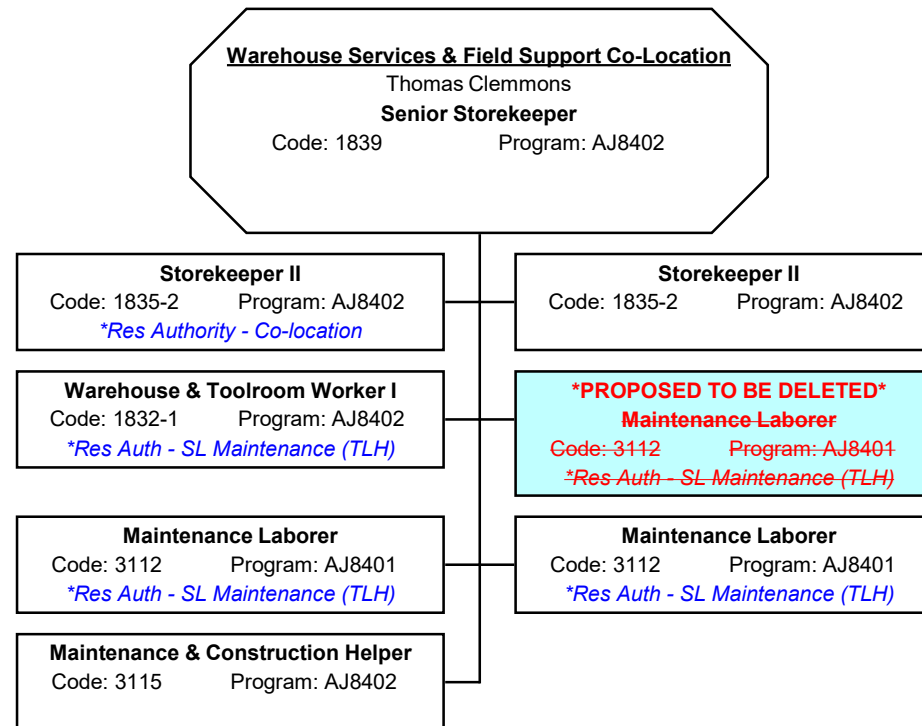


**Note:**  
\*\* - BSL proposes to keep position.  
See Addendum 1 Offset



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS- BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - WAREHOUSE & FIELD SUPPORT - 339

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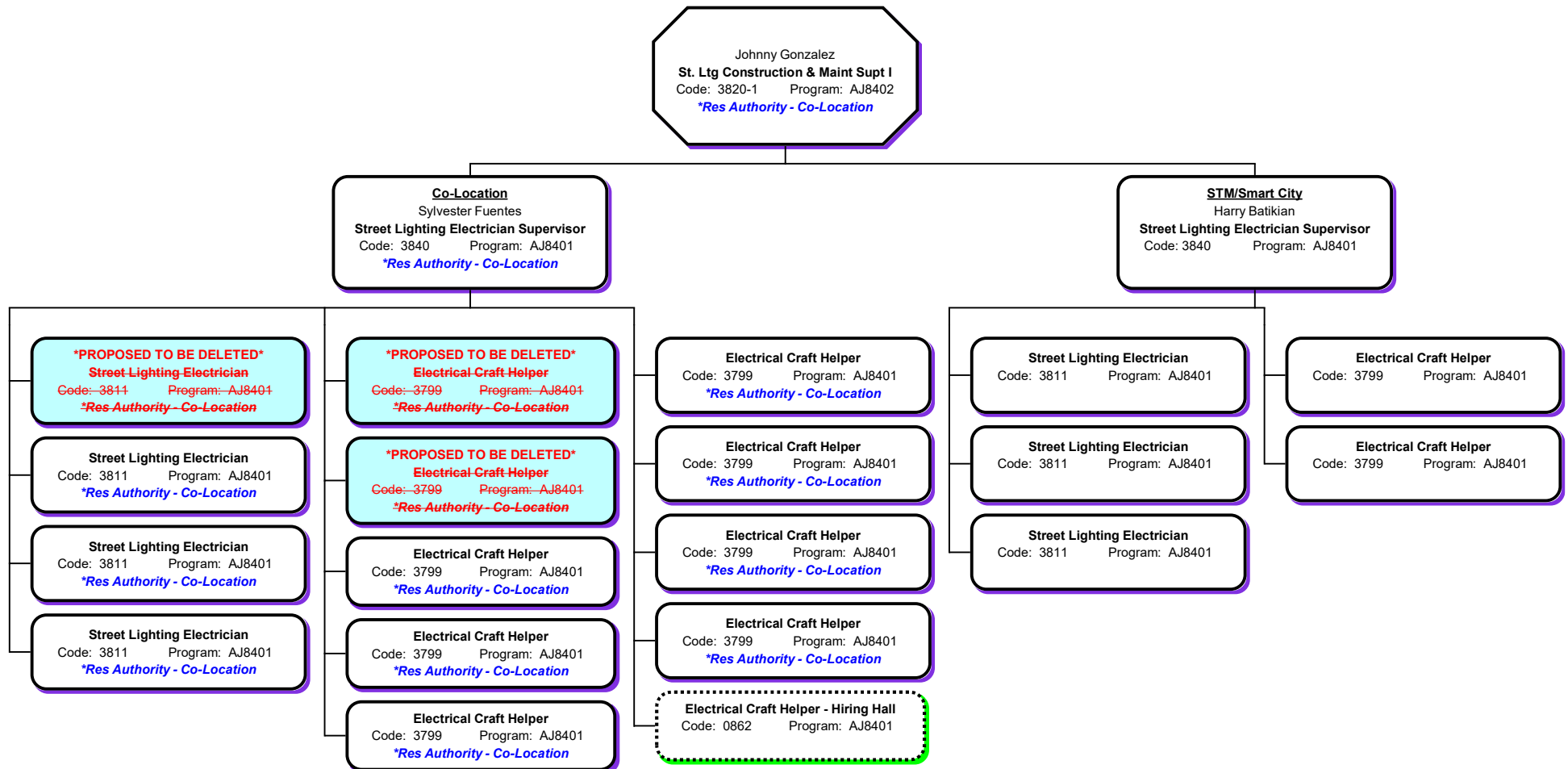


The Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) Warehouse occupies warehouse space alongside the General Services Department (GSD) Warehouse. GSD manages streetlighting maintenance items/activities only. The BSL Warehouse was established to order, manage, track, and maintain streetlighting items that are related to projects and construction. The BSL Warehouse's role has greatly expanded to become the chief purchaser of items needed for Construction, CDBG, Special Projects, and Vandalism and Wire Theft mitigation. Additionally, the BSL Warehouse & Field Support crew is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Santa Monica Yard.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - COLOCATION/CONSTRUCTION DIVISION - 339

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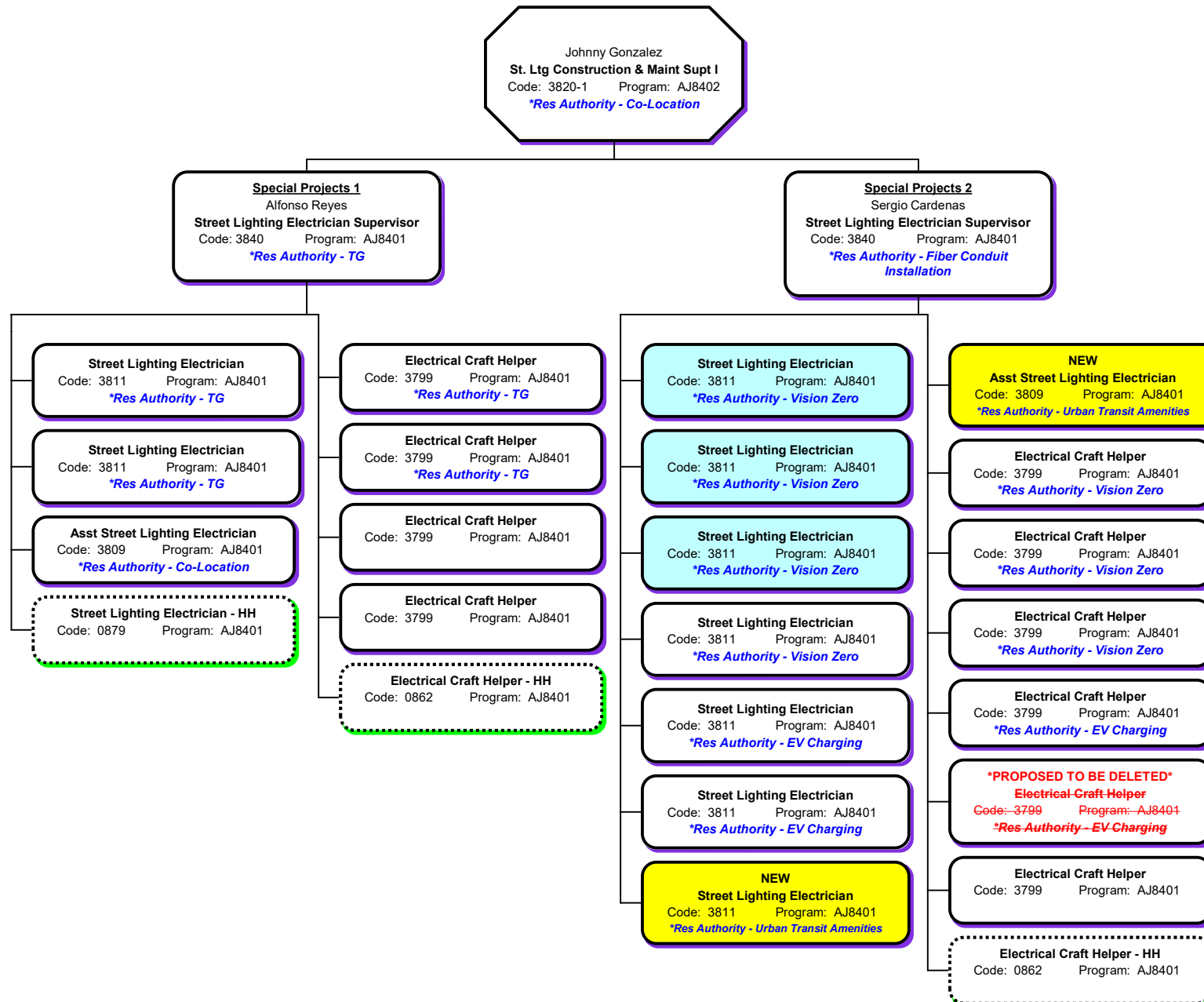


Established in FY 2017-18 with the City's deployment of small cell sites and partnership with telecommunication companies. This program partners with telecommunication companies to deploy small cell sites and bring 5G to strengthen the City's cellular coverage for constituents, businesses, visitors, and emergency responders. FOD's Co-Location Section provides construction support by installing and securing streetlight poles equipped with telecommunication devices/antennas, building stronger foundations for larger projects, rewiring circuits for higher capacity or conversion from High Voltage to Low Voltage.



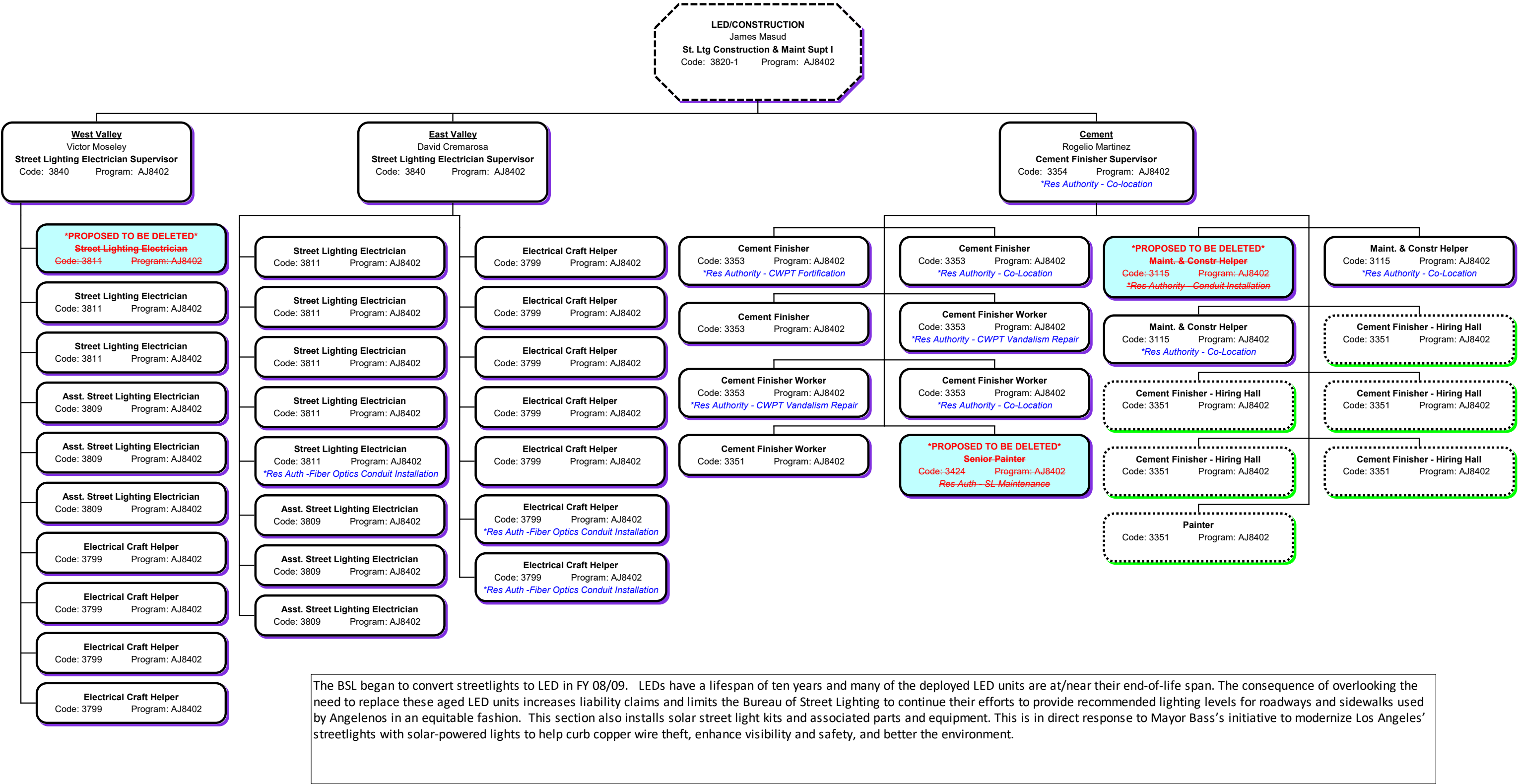
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - COLOCATION/CONSTRUCTION DIVISION - 339

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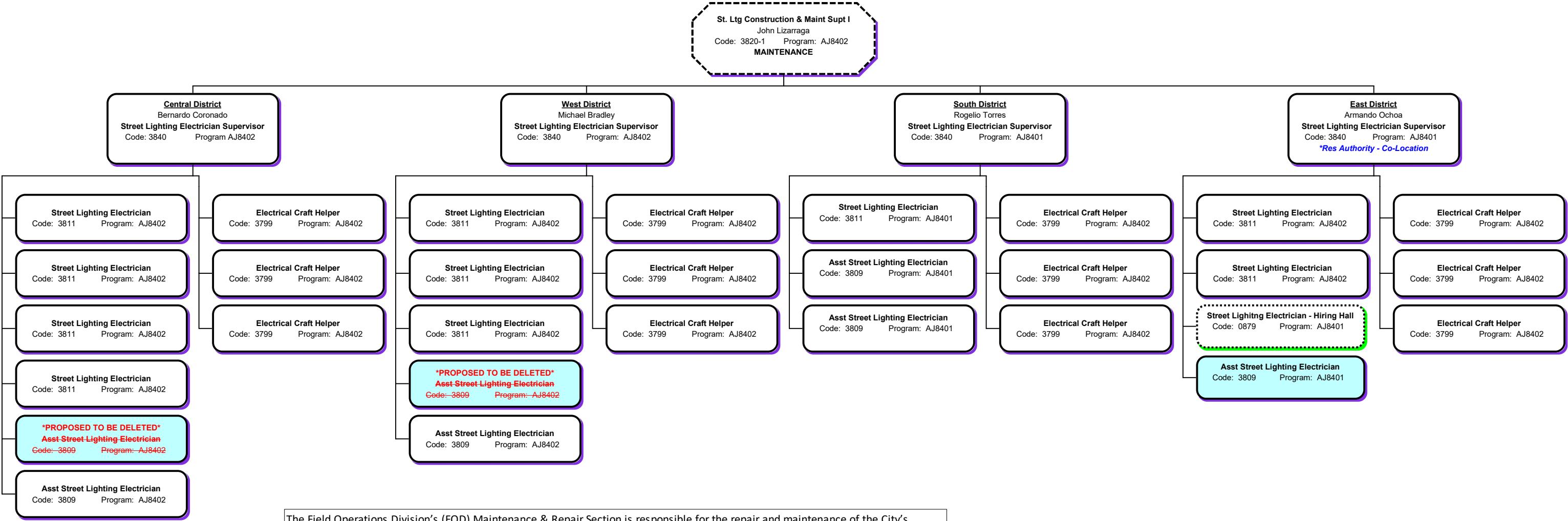


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - LED/CONSTRUCTION DIVISION - 339





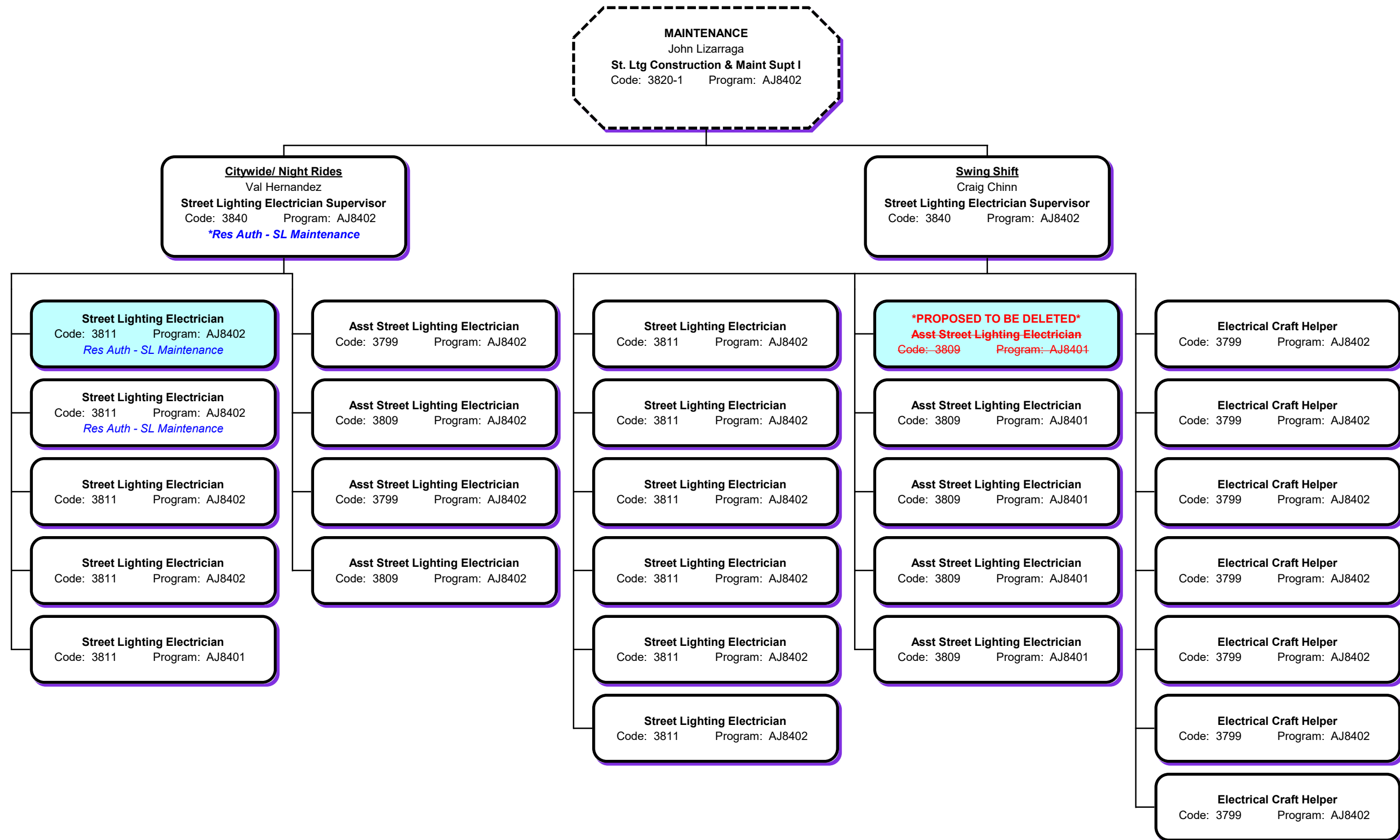
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - MAINTENANCE - 339



The Field Operations Division's (FOD) Maintenance & Repair Section is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the City's streetlight network (223,000 lights). FOD maintains nine geographically based Maintenance Districts in order to ensure efficient response times and respond to new technologies and emergency situations. Maintenance and repair work includes fixture or lamp failure, circuitry failure, post damage and vandalism to streetlights or pull boxes. The Maintenance Section also provides construction support for various street lighting projects, oversees fleet coordination and warehouse activities, and coordinates with engineering for testing and equipment evaluations.

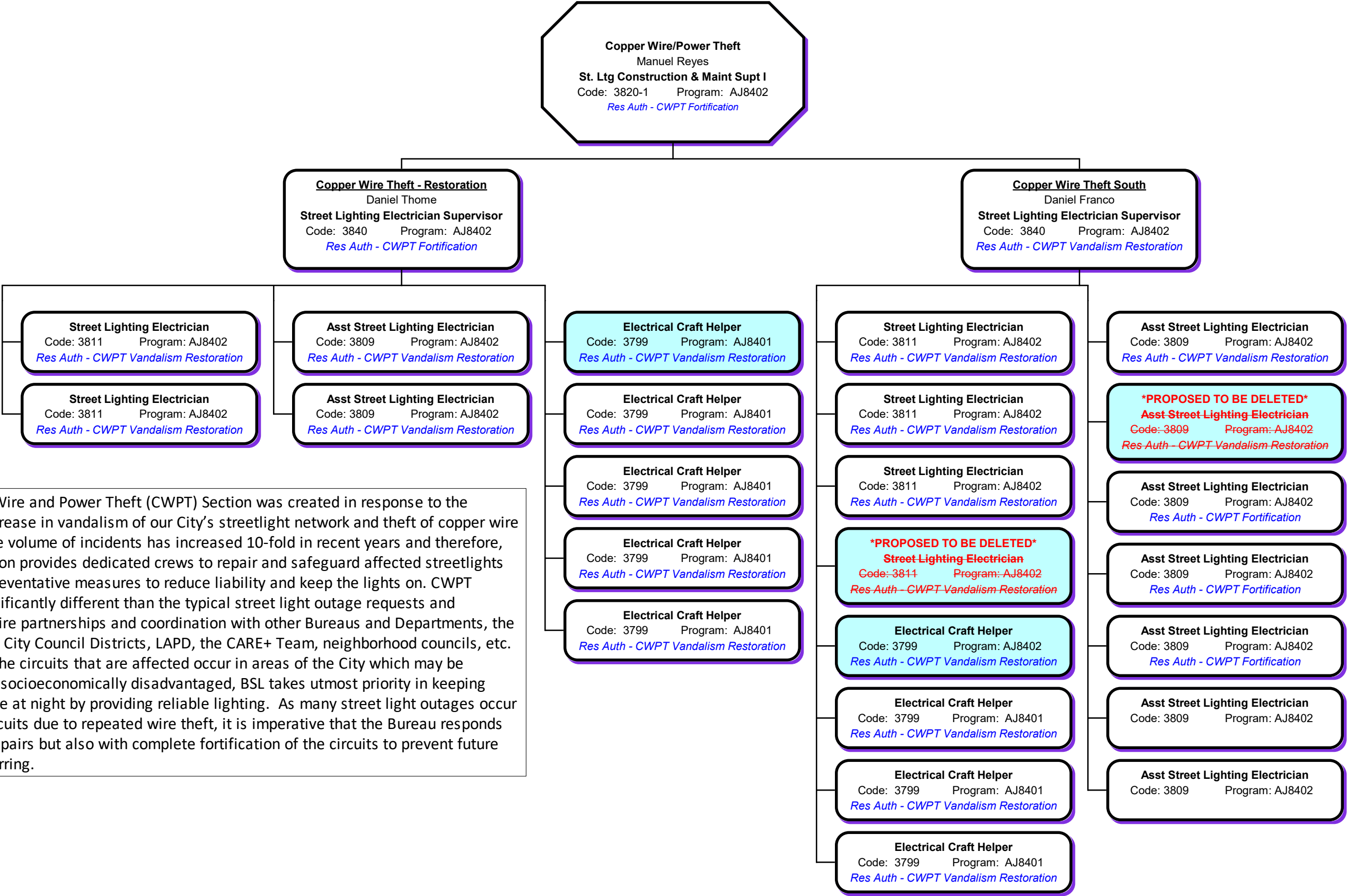


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - MAINTENANCE - 339**





DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - COPPER WIRE THEFT DIVISION - 339



FOD's Copper Wire and Power Theft (CWPT) Section was created in response to the exponential increase in vandalism of our City's streetlight network and theft of copper wire and power. The volume of incidents has increased 10-fold in recent years and therefore, the CWPT Section provides dedicated crews to repair and safeguard affected streetlights and employs preventative measures to reduce liability and keep the lights on. CWPT repairs are significantly different than the typical street light outage requests and frequently require partnerships and coordination with other Bureaus and Departments, the Mayor's Office, City Council Districts, LAPD, the CARE+ Team, neighborhood councils, etc. Since many of the circuits that are affected occur in areas of the City which may be underserved or socioeconomically disadvantaged, BSL takes utmost priority in keeping these areas safe at night by providing reliable lighting. As many street light outages occur at the same circuits due to repeated wire theft, it is imperative that the Bureau responds not only with repairs but also with complete fortification of the circuits to prevent future theft from occurring.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUREAU OF STREET LIGHTING  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - COPPER WIRE THEFT DIVISION - 339

