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March 18, 2025

The Honorable City Council
c/o Petty F. Santos
Office of the City Clerk
Room 360, City Hall

COUNCIL FILE 25-0006-S23: STATUS OF CITY-OWNED STREET LIGHTING INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MAY OR MAY HAVE NOT BEEN IMPACTED BY THE JANUARY 2025 FIRES

SUMMARY

The following is the evaluation, and status of infrastructure & facilities serving the communities impacted by the Palisades Fire and other wildfires across the City, for the Bureau of Street Lighting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file this report

BACKGROUND

On January 14, the City Council adopted Special Motion 25-0006-S23 which included instruction to the Department of Public Works and its Bureaus to evaluate and report on the status of infrastructure and facilities serving the communities impacted by the Palisades Fire and other wildfires across the City, and to report on the status of City-owned buildings, facilities, service yards, and other resources that may have been impacted by the wildfires in the City.

BSL operates and maintains an extensive network of over 220,000 street lights spanning across two-thirds of Los Angeles. In the Pacific Palisades burn area specifically, the Bureau owns and operates more than 1,200 streetlights on approximately 120 separate street lighting circuits.

DISCUSSION

Below are the Bureau's initial assessments of damaged infrastructure. As assessments are still ongoing, these numbers are preliminary. The below figures represent mostly visual inspection of above ground assets, while assessments of damage to buried and below ground infrastructure are still in progress.

In addition to the Bureau's internal efforts to identify damage to its infrastructure, Aero Connected Cities was hired to provide specialized inspection services to identify poles that pose a potential hazard or liability and that should be removed. The services specifically addressed the street light poles' material behavior to the thermal conditions present within the fire's burn area and the proximity of a pole to the extreme heat. The information provided by Aero Connected Cities helps the Bureau understand what considerations should be taken into account in determining the fitness of our street light poles. In addition, empirical data from prior studies and recommendations were also provided. With this information the Bureau expects the number of damaged poles to increase as assessments continue.

Pacific Palisades Fire

To date, 110 burn area circuits have been inspected, of which 90 have been confirmed with LADWP power. In these locations, the BSL has left infrastructure that may be structurally compromised and later removed, to maintain lighting where possible.

Damaged street light poles - 488*

Damage street light fixtures/luminaires - 488*

Removed street lights - 39

Circuit Inspections - 110 circuits

Damaged Streetlight Foundations - 39*

Burnt Wires - *over 100,000 feet**

*Numbers expected to increase



Temporary Infrastructure / Mitigation Measures

The Bureau has been working to deploy solar lights to restore lighting in damaged areas. To date, the BSL has installed 44 solar lights in areas where damaged streetlights have been removed and/or power has not been restored.

Hurst Fire (Sylmar)

No street lighting infrastructure damage reported.

Sunset Fire (Hollywood)

No street lighting infrastructure damage reported.

FISCAL IMPACT

The BSL is working with the City Administrative Office (CAO) to provide cost estimates and support efforts to secure Federal and State reimbursement for eligible costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Evelinda Pena at evelinda.pena@lacity.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Sangalang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MIGUEL SANGALANG
Executive Director
Bureau of Street Lighting