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April 21, 2022

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MAYOR'S FISCAL YEAR 22/23 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Mayor's FY22/23 Proposed Budget. First and foremost, we are grateful for the support and resources as currently proposed by the budget and are aware of the tight balancing act required given limited resources against growing needs. I would like to highlight, for your consideration, the items below as they are both important responses to pressing issues and opportunities to strategically reduce long term costs or unlock greater value to the City. By investing in the following we would be able to:

Increase public safety and reduce risk and liability through

- Copper Wire Theft Replacement Program Expansion
- Additional Vision Zero Support (requested from discussions with DOT)

Increase equity by bridging the digital divide through

- Broadband infrastructure investment in underconnected communities
- Office of Digital Inclusion expansion

Raise livability in a sustainable and resilient way through

- Electric Vehicle Charging Program expansion
- Metro Annual Work Program Support

Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce through

- Admin Support at Field Operations
- Fleet Expansion
- A Street Lighting Yard Study

### **Copper Wire Theft Replacement Program Expansion**

Based on the more than 2,800 incidents to date, Los Angeles will see a new all-time high in wire theft incidents this year which has already had a negative impact on its street lighting network. Communities are left in the dark for weeks, sometimes months, due to the extensive backlog lowering both the reality and perception of public safety and increasing risk for the City. Through an analysis of trends and possible strategies, our recent report in Council File 22-0156 concludes a significant amount of resources and effort will be necessary to bring lights back on. BSL would like to request the following, which may be funded through Gas Tax or CTIEP:

#### One (1) Restore Crews (two total requested including currently proposed in budget)

- One (1) Street Lighting Electrician Supervisor
- Two (2) Street Lighting Electricians (increase one position to full year funding)
- Two (2) Assistant Street Lighting Electricians (increase one position to full year funding)
- Two (2) Electrical Craft Helpers (increase one position to full year funding)
- Two (2) Mechanical Helpers (increase one position to full year funding)

Total salaries of 9 positions	\$ 584,000
Overtime	\$ 550,000
Equipment Rental	\$ 189,700
Total Requested:	\$ 1,323,700

#### One (1) Fortification Crew

Request 11 New Resolution Authority Positions Total \$ 930,000

- One (1) Street Lighting Electrician Supervisor
- Two (2) Street Lighting Electricians
- Two (2) Assistant Street Lighting Electricians
- One (1) Cement Finisher
- One (1) Cement Finisher Worker
- One (1) Welder
- Two (2) Electrical Craft Helpers
- One (1) Mechanical Helper

Overtime General	\$ 1,000,000
Street Lighting Supplies	\$ 2,000,000
Equipment Rental Total	\$ 514,000
Total Requested:	\$ 4,440,000

\$1,600,000 in Street Lighting Supplies to purchase 500 Solar-Powered Battery-Enabled Streetlights as a new strategy to reduce repeat outages and increase resilience (CTIEP).

\$1,500,000 in Street Lighting Supplies to pilot Smart Cities Technologies (e.g.: sensors; camera installations) to curb copper wire theft and other issues like illegal dumping (CTIEP).

### **Additional Vision Zero Support**

The Bureau worked closely with DOT to determine the coming year's resource requirements for projects that will reduce collisions resulting in severe injury or death and expects an additional workload of 62 new Vision Zero design plans and 40 new Complete Streets design plans. Separately, we anticipate 65 new design plans based off of new Council Motions. To meet demand, BSL would like to request the following, which may be funded through Measure M:

Two (2) Street Lighting Engineering Associate II  
One (1) Civil Engineering Drafting Technician  
One (1) Electrical Craft Helper

### **Broadband Infrastructure Investment in Underconnected Communities**

Broadband infrastructure will become more useful in the near future as the demand for connectivity services is projected to increase exponentially (both for the public and for our own city needs, including Internet of Things-enabled services). BSL, working with sister Bureaus and Departments like Street Services, can begin piloting broadband infrastructure projects that can serve many purposes by adding foundational capacity, coverage, and flexibility to publicly-accessible fiber networks. Additionally, the Bureau's efforts align to many of the expected guidelines of future federal or state grants to fund middle- and last-mile investments but may need matching funds in order to qualify. BSL would like to request \$10,000,000, possibly funded from CTIEP, which will allow it to expand on the recent efforts and investments of FY21/22. This funding would be used for fiber deployment, construction of fiber-capable conduit, and next-to-last connections to our street poles ("Fiber to the Pole"), which would be aligned and coordinated where possible to other city infrastructure projects. Flexibility in funding source and planning is necessary to ensure the Bureau can make investments efficiently, economically, and expediently by leveraging the shared costs of such coordinations. However, the Bureau will ensure that investments are made within an equity framework, in the service of communities that are under connected or under-resourced in terms of current need and projected future need ("future-proofing").

### **Office of Digital Inclusion Expansion**

BSL is currently chairing the City's Connectivity and Digital Inclusion Working Group and has acted as a coordinator for \$5M in one-time funding that was identified in the FY 21-22 budget for City-wide Digital Inclusion efforts, as well as the additional \$10M in one-time funding identified in the FY 21-22 budget for Broadband for Disadvantaged Communities (BSL has proposed a spending plan that is pending Council Approval). BSL will be responsible for reporting on these funds to Federal agencies, in addition to finalizing and coordinating these projects across departments to achieve synergy. In FY 22-23, the responsibilities of the Bureau's Office of Digital Inclusion will expand significantly as new projects funded by the sources above come online, and as new project opportunities are made available via Federal and State grants. For FY 22-23, one Management Analyst position was proposed in the Mayor's budget; the Bureau is requesting additional resolution authority for one Senior Management Analyst I (SMA I).

The SMA I position will be critical to continue multi-year efforts supported by the \$5M and \$10M workplans mentioned above and anticipated grant-funded projects both wholly managed by the Bureau and those undertaken in partnership with other departments and external entities/jurisdictions (such as LAUSD). This position will be critical for program development, departmental coordination, and direct project management for new programs, as well as for managing the Bureau's broadband grant strategies and applications to ensure that the City receives maximum grant funding for broadband infrastructure and services.

### **EV Charging Program Maintenance and Expansion**

BSL's Curbside EV charging stations are both exceptionally cost-effective and equitable – they can be deployed in disadvantaged communities that are typically multi-family and have less ability to purchase individual chargers. To help the City meet EV goals, the Bureau has been resourced to deploy 300 EV chargers for FY 22-23. However, as proposed, the Bureau will lack the staff to design the additional chargers or maintain existing in the field with the 6-months funding for the two field positions and 6-months funding for one Engineering Associate to design all future sites. In order to maintain the chargers, report power usage, coordinate with vendors, LADOT, and DWP for existing stations only, authorized positions are necessary. If the Bureau is to continue and expand our EV Charging program, to help the City meet goals and to take advantage of grant and infrastructure dollars, additional staffing is needed. Therefore, the Bureau requests the following additional 13 unfunded position authorities and will utilize MICLA and grant funding as available:

- One (1) Street Lighting Engineering Associate III
- Two (2) Street Lighting Engineering Associate II
- Five (5) Street Lighting Electrician
- Five (5) Electrical Craft Helpers

### **Metro Annual Work Program**

The loss of five positions through the City's SIP coupled with increases in requested staff support have strained the ability of the Bureau to respond in a timely manner and may now begin causing delays to major transit projects. During FY 21-22, BSL supervised 25 design-build projects. In FY 22-23, the number of projects is expected to increase to 35 design-build projects that are all under various stages of design, construction, project acceptance, and as-built for the next ten (10) years. BSL would like to request the following, which would be funded by Measure M and will not impact the General Fund:

One (1) Street Lighting Engineering Associate II resolution authority position

### **Admin Support (Senior Management Analyst II) at the Field Operations Division**

BSL's Field Operations Division (FOD) oversees all the construction and maintenance of the City's street lighting infrastructure. FOD has its own administrative section that oversees the Division's budget preparation, timekeeping and personnel coordination as well as financial matters that include major street lighting funding sources and programs. The addition of a Construction Warehouse in recent years, which is not managed by GSD, has put new responsibilities and required oversight on Field Superintendents who do not have the capacity, and are not equipped nor trained on managing warehousing and purchasing duties. The Division requires a better span of control to more efficiently operate both the administrative and warehousing sides of the Division. BSL would like to request a Senior Management Analyst II position which would be funded out of SLMAF.

## Fleet Expansion

The Bureau has begun to rely on more expensive vehicle leases as several pieces of field equipment exceed the City's Replacement Policy and Emission Control Strategy and are out for longer and longer repairs. These older vehicles tend to pollute more heavily and have less safety features, increasing risks to our field staff. Operations have evolved and construction programs have been established or expanded, requiring heavier duty vehicles – some of which are not available to rent. Additionally, as Wire Theft/Vandalism have become more pervasive, more specialized crews are dispatched citywide, requiring additional specialized vehicles. BSL would like to request the following 15 vehicles, which could be funded through MICLA:

- 2 Dump Trucks - 3 YD (Co-location) - \$155,000 each
  - 2 Derrick Trucks (Co-location) - \$400,000 each
  - 1 Cement Truck (Co-location) - \$240,000 - **Not Available for lease**
  - 1 Aerial Lift Truck (Maintenance) - \$185,000
  - 1 Compressor Dump Truck (Maintenance) - \$215,000
  - 1 Flatbed with Compressor (Maintenance/Wire Theft) - \$170,000
  - 6 Weld Trucks (Wire Theft) - \$185,000 each
  - 1 Cement Truck (Wire Theft) - \$240,000 **Not Available for lease**
- TOTAL \$3,270,000

## Street Lighting Yard Study

The last significant improvement of our Santa Monica Yard was in the 90's (30 years ago) with a purchase of an adjacent parcel now used for the fleet. However, in the past 10 years the Bureau's Field Office Division (FOD) has grown 50%, from 134 employees in 2010 to nearly 200 employees today. This constricts our ability to store the required material and house staff and equipment necessary as services expand. A site evaluation and analysis conducted by the Bureau of Engineering can improve the facility and identify the needs for any capital repairs, technology upgrades, security and space enhancements, and coordination of operations with other city owned facilities. BSL would like to request \$200,000 from CTIEP to begin the study.

Sincerely,



Miguel Sangalang  
Bureau of Street Lighting

CC: Mary Hodge, Deputy Mayor of City Services  
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor for Budget & Innovation  
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Raoul Mendoza, Director of Budget  
Nicholas Ryu, Infrastructure Manager (MOCS)