



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **FI-3**

April 14, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve Public Works to acquire maintenance equipment at a total cost of \$325,000 budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2004-05 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This request is to comply with the County Equipment Policy that your Board approved on October 16, 2001. This policy requires Board approval prior to departments purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater. Therefore, we are requesting approval to purchase a vactor (vacuum) truck budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2004-05 Internal Service Fund Budget.

This purchase is a replacement for an existing vactor truck used to remove debris from catch basins; clear plugged storm drain inlets; clean out pump stations, subdrains, and stilling wells; perform work related to NPDES permit compliance; and perform other routine activities. This ten-year-old vactor truck has logged approximately 8,832 hours of operation and has become unreliable. Our replacement criteria is 7,500 hours or 12 years. In the last three years, it has averaged a total of 95 days in shop downtime.

The cost to replace the existing vactor truck with a current generation unit is \$325,000, and the expected life of a new vactor truck is 7,500 hours or 12 years. A comparable unit rents for \$25,200 per month or \$302,400 per year. It is recommended that Public Works replace this unit with a new vactor truck instead of renting a similar unit for the following reasons:

- To improve reliability.
- To improve availability.
- Less costly over time than renting a similar unit.
- Fully comply with current equipment standards and regulations.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goals for Service Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness, and Fiscal Responsibility. This action will enable Public Works to continue to provide County residents with enhanced responsive, efficient, and effective flood control maintenance.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost for this acquisition is \$325,000 and is included in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2004-05 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation. There is no impact to net County cost as a result of this purchase.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby departments will obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to purchasing.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The approval of this request will enable Public Works to continue to perform its routine flood maintenance activities, including those activities associated with NPDES permit compliance, in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

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CONCLUSION

Your approval will allow Public Works to replace inefficient maintenance equipment and continue to provide flood control services to County residents. Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Acting Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel