

Marin General Services Authority

Description of Programs

January 2011

1. Streetlight Management. MGSA is the owner of the streetlights in member jurisdictions (County, all cities/towns, Bel Marin Keys CSD, and Marinwood CSD) and has a master contract with Republic ITS for streetlight maintenance. The master contract sets rates and standards for maintenance services provided by Republic to MGSA members, which in turn, contract with Republic and select the level of streetlight maintenance they desire. In 2009 MGSA requested that Republic do an inventory and visual inspection of all streetlights. This inspection resulted in the identification of some 2000 defects needing repair or replacement at a potential cost of over \$100,000. \$60,000 was budgeted during 2010-11 to make the most urgent repairs noted in the inspections. Additional funds will be requested in 2011-12 to complete the repairs.

MGSA is also working with the County's Marin Energy Management Team (MEMT) to assist MGSA members interested in converting their streetlights to LED or Induction fixtures. Members are using state or federal funds to cover all or part of the costs of such conversions. The member cities are taking the lead in their own jurisdictions, with MGSA providing assistance where possible.

2. Taxicab Regulation. All the cities and the County have adopted virtually the same taxicab regulation ordinance (with one variation). The program is designed to screen all drivers for drug/alcohol use and criminal records and ensure vehicle safety. The MGSA board is seeking to make the program self funded through permit fees. Permit fees were adjusted in 2009 and 2010 to approach full cost recovery. An additional increase is scheduled for December 2011 after which we should be able to cover regular, annual costs (absent unusual circumstances, such as extraordinary legal fees). Through 2009, the emphasis was on getting the companies, drivers and vehicles permitted. Now emphasis is more focused on enforcement. We have had one exception to the overall cooperation of drivers and company owners (Novato Taxi), which has caused us to undertake legal action. On occasion, the MGSA board has been required to act as a hearing body of appeals filed by taxi drivers' whose permit applications were denied by staff.

3. Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program. Under State law, counties may opt in to a program whereby a \$1.00 surcharge is placed on vehicle registrations in that county for the purpose of abating abandoned vehicles. MGSA receives these funds for Marin County and all the towns and cities and passes the funds through to the agencies. The AVA program is authorized in ten-year increments and will need to be re-authorized before the end of 2011.

4. MarinMap. MarinMap provides a GIS based mapping system for use by municipal engineering, utility and planning staffs. MarinMap is a semi-autonomous entity (JEPA), with oversight provided by MGSA as specified by the MarinMap JEPA agreement. The

MarinMap system provides “layered” mapping of utilities, planning data, and other data bases for the County, cities/towns, LAFCo, and some special districts. Until November 2010, the City of Mill Valley was under contract to provide management of the program through its Public Works Director. MGSA is seeking a contract Program Director at this time.

5. Marin Climate & Energy Partnership. In November 2007 the City of Novato submitted a grant application to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for \$75,000 on behalf of the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (MCEP), a group of representatives from all Marin municipalities, Marin County, the Marin Municipal Water District and the Transportation Authority of Marin in collaboration with the Marin Energy Management Team. The purpose of the grant was to fund assistance to municipalities to assess, prioritize and implement greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction activities called out in their greenhouse gas reduction programs. The grant was approved in January 2008, after which the City of Novato assigned the grant to MGSA. The scope of work for that grant has been completed and funds expended. In April 2009, the MCEP received an \$80,000 grant from the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) to fund a green building strategy process, including green building policy principles for local jurisdictions and to assist in development of a county-wide green building retrofit program. In 2010 MCEP received another \$80,000 grant from MCF to assist preparation of Climate Action Plans for six member cities. That work is underway. MCEP members are also asked to contribute \$2000 per year to fund the program.

6. MCSTOPPP. MCSTOPPP is the storm water runoff control program (NPDES permit) for the County and Marin County towns and cities. The annual program and budget for MCSTOPP is prepared by County staff and is presented to the MGSA board for review. After MGSA’s review, the County Board of Supervisors reviews and ultimately approves the annual program and budget. The review of the annual program and budget is MGSA’s sole responsibility. This process was established to assure local agency input in the countywide program.

7. County Mediation Program. Until July 2010, this countywide program was operated by the County Probation Department, which worked up its annual program and budget. The program was transferred to the District Attorney with the 2010-11 County budget. The County assesses its cost of operating the program in the towns and cities through the MGSA. Once the assessments of the cities are set, MGSA invoices and collects the assessments and transfers the funds to the County. MGSA’s role is solely the ministerial responsibility of invoicing and collecting funds.