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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Note – The following press release was provided initially on January 6, 2011. However, an updated press release is contained below with more information on this project.

Streetlight Conversion Test Program

City of Novato is currently conducting a streetlight pilot test to solicit public input to guide the City in the selection of new energy efficient streetlight fixtures. The new fixtures would replace existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlight fixtures to reduce energy costs for the City, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Of the City's 3,900 streetlights, approximately 3,000 are readily convertible to energy efficient fixtures. The City currently spends \$170,000 per year in electricity costs for these 3,000 lights.

In 2009, the City was awarded a \$491,800 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, of which \$382,000 has been designated to convert existing HPS streetlight fixtures to energy efficient fixtures. The grant funding will allow the City to convert approximately 800 streetlight fixtures to more efficient fixtures, resulting in an annual cost saving of about \$30,000. The objective of this project is to take advantage of a federal funding opportunity to replace some of our streetlights with more energy efficient fixtures. The City does not want to increase the number of lights or install brighter lights. The City is working to mitigate issues with possible side effects -- the most common being that the new light is 'whiter,' and may appear to be 'brighter' in some installations.

At the January 11th Council meeting, Public Works Director Jason Nutt provided a presentation about the Streetlight Conversion Test Program and answered questions of the City Council. During initial discussions at the January 11th Council meeting, the Council expressed a strong interest to make sure that the new lights are not too bright and that they don't create a negative impact to neighborhoods. City staff is exploring additional options to ensure these concerns are addressed.

Pilot Test

Two alternative fixtures are being considered as part of this Pilot Test -- Light-Emitting Diode (LED) and Induction. Both lighting types are considered the current industry standard for energy cost savings and efficiency, and will reduce the monthly energy costs of each converted streetlight by approximately 40%. In addition, routine maintenance will be reduced significantly, since the lifespan of LED and Induction lighting fixtures is three to four times longer than the existing HPS lighting fixtures. After researching documents on the health risks of LED and Induction fixtures vs. traditional HPS fixtures, the City has concluded that there is no clear consensus that one technology has an overall greater health risk than another. As for environmental issues, it has been established that both

LED and Induction fixtures use less electricity to produce the same amount of light compared with traditional HPS fixtures.

The streetlight Pilot Test area is taking place on South Novato Boulevard between Rowland Boulevard and Yukon Way. The reasons for selecting the South Novato Boulevard street sections for the pilot test were:

- Streetlights are located on a major street adjacent to residential neighborhoods;
- Streetlights are equally spaced to display the spectrum of light provided by each fixture type;
- Existing HPS fixtures are consistent in style and wattage;
- Light spillover from adjacent property lighting is negligible; and,
- Street blocks are short enough to convert most of the fixtures to energy saving fixtures.

In addition, the Pilot Test project of the two alternative fixture types have been intentionally separated by a block of existing HPS lighting to enable an easy comparison to the various lighting types. The City encourages residents to drive by the Pilot Test area and see the different fixtures.

- Four LED fixtures have been installed between Rowland Boulevard and Adele Drive. The streetlights with LED fixtures have been marked with blue signs.
- Four Induction fixtures have been installed between Arthur Drive and Yukon Way. The streetlights with Induction fixtures have been marked with orange signs.

To provide feedback on the alternative streetlights to the City, the public is being asked to visit the Pilot Test area and observe the three types of lighting. To collect feedback about the public's lighting preferences, a short online survey will be available until January 31 at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R66KMS7> . The information collected from the survey will help determine the public's preferred lighting fixture, and enable staff to make a lighting recommendation to the City Council at the February 8, 2011 meeting.

More Information

More information about this project is available at:

Staff Report to the City Council from Public Works Director Jason Nut (1/11/2011 Council Meeting)

http://ci.novato.ca.us/agendas/pdfstaffreports/cc11_006.pdf

Press Release, Link to Survey, Map of Test Area

<http://www.cityofnovato.org/Index.aspx?page=637&recordid=847&returnURL=%2fIndex.aspx%3fpag e%3d1>

Video 1/11/2011 Council Meeting – Presentation on Streetlight Conversion Test Program

http://novato.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=378

For additional information or to provide comments, please contact the City at 899-8900 or email City@novato.org.