



# City of La Quinta

**CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE:** March 18, 2014

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

**ITEM TITLE:** AUTHORIZE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL TECHNICIAN TO ATTEND TRAINING IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 11-13, 2014

**BUSINESS SESSION:**

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** 4

**STUDY SESSION:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize overnight travel for the Traffic Signal Technician to attend video detection training and certification to be held March 11-13, 2014 in Santa Ana, California.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- Many of the traffic signals in the City detect traffic using a video detection system. It is important for the Traffic Signal Technician ("Technician") to know how to program and troubleshoot the system in order to keep the signal operating safely and efficiently.
- The City's Technician has an opportunity to further develop his skills by attending this advanced training to learn more about operation and programming of the City's traffic signal video detection systems. The training is free; however, Council approval is required for all overnight travel for training.
- Approval is being sought retroactively due to the late notice of the training. The timetable did not allow for Council approval prior to the training.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The estimated total cost for the Technician to attend this training is \$420. Funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 budget.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

La Quinta has 54 traffic signals located at key intersections throughout the City. They require regular maintenance, which involves upgrades, repairs, and adjustments in order to keep them operating at an optimal level. In coordination with the City's Traffic Engineer, it is the Technician's job to perform this work and also respond to requests from the public regarding the operation of the City's traffic signals.

Video detection systems are complex computer-based devices that are fundamental to the Technician's job. Video detection training and certification, provided free of charge by the City's video detection system manufacturer, will give the Technician the extensive hands on training required to improve signal phasing and coordination as well as all other essential maintenance and operations features necessary for maximum performance of La Quinta's traffic signals.

As this free training is being held in Santa Ana, a two-night stay is required. The City received late notice of the training and was not able to bring this item forward for Council consideration prior to the training date; therefore, staff is requesting a retroactive approval.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

Since this request is being made retroactively, no alternative is recommended.

Report prepared by: Bryan McKinney, Principal Engineer

Report approved for submission by: Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.

Public Works Director/City Engineer