



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside City Council Advances Citywide LED Streetlight Upgrade Project

Multi-phased plan by Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) will save energy and money

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Nights will be getting brighter on the roadways of Riverside over the next few years after the Riverside City Council approved the planning and design work necessary to implement a multi-phased plan by Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) to switch out older High Pressure Sodium (HPS) street lights with new, brighter, energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting citywide.

“This type of innovative program is exactly why Riverside is so fortunate to have its own public utility,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said after the 7-0 vote last night (9/6). “RPU continues to make Riverside more ‘green’ and more energy-efficient, and our residents and business owners will benefit from this leadership.”

Some of the benefits include:

- increased visibility and safety;
- a 20-year lifespan for LED’s, versus a 7-year lifespan with current HPS lights;
- annual energy savings of over 10.25 megawatts (MW), enough to power approximately 1,398 homes for one year;
- annual cost savings (after project completion) of more than \$922,000 in energy savings, as well as \$360,000 saved in maintenance costs;
- environmental savings that offset more than 3,249 tons of greenhouse gas emissions (the equivalent to taking nearly 700 vehicles off the road).

“There are so many positive benefits that come from this lighting change-out program,” said RPU General Manager Girish Balachandran, “And as the City of Arts & Innovation, it is fitting that Riverside will be the first city in the Inland Empire to make the switch.”

The approval of the multi-phased project comes after RPU's successful 2014 pilot program which replaced lighting at key intersections and neighborhoods including Market Street, University Avenue, Auto Center Drive, and streets around the areas of the Galleria at Tyler and Riverside Plaza.

The state-of-the-art lighting will also play a part in RPU's Utility 2.0 infrastructure plans for the future, as new LED luminaries are "Smart" system ready and can be equipped with sensors that can provide important data, which could play a role in improving city services.

"This project not only is good for Riverside's present, but also for its future," Mayor Pro Tem Andy Melendrez said. "I commend General Manager Balachandran and the RPU Board for bringing this to fruition."

The utility expects to upgrade more than 30,000 lights throughout Riverside in its \$15 million, five-phased plan that is expected to be completed by 2019. For additional information about this and other RPU projects, visit www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com.