



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802

August 15, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California State University Long Beach (CSULB) concerning traffic signal improvements at the new access road at Palo Verde Avenue and Rendina Street necessary to mitigate additional traffic movements between Palo Verde Avenue and the access road to the CSULB parking garage currently under construction. (District 3)

DISCUSSION

CSULB is currently constructing a new parking structure to serve campus parking demands. As part of the Environmental Impact Report for construction of the project; the need for a new traffic signal at Palo Verde Avenue and Rendina Street was identified as necessary to mitigate project-related traffic impacts. Originally, CSULB included the signal in their design for the project, however, before final signal plans were prepared, this portion of the project was halted due to court a decision which arguably affected the ability of State Universities in California to fund offsite transportation improvement projects. The California Supreme Court accepted the case on appeal, taking nearly three years to reach a decision. In the meantime, construction of the parking garage by CSULB has continued and is nearly complete. The target date for opening is the end of August 2006. Assuming that either the court's decision or another solution would ultimately enable CSULB to provide signalized control of the access to the project site, City staff have been working to assure that timely installation would be feasible.

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On July 31, 2006, the Supreme Court overruled the lower court decision, allowing CSULB to fund the necessary signal project. In order to minimize the gap in time between the opening of the parking structure and the installation of the traffic signal, staff from the two public agencies have been working on project implementation with the understanding that both the City and CSULB would move expeditiously to process a Memorandum of Understanding covering project responsibilities. The MOU will include the following provisions:

1. The City will take all steps necessary to acquire and install a four-way traffic signal controlled intersection at Rendina Street and Palo Verde Avenue. CSULB will provide necessary conduit to the boundary of its property.
2. CSULB will provide access to its property to enable installation of the light, the traffic sensors, and the control unit.
3. The City will maintain the traffic signal and its component parts on the public right-of-way.
4. CSULB will pay to the City \$185,000 to cover the design, engineering and installation of the traffic control devices, including component parts. Any costs incurred in excess of \$185,000 will be the responsibility of the City.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lisa Peskay Malmsten on August 9, 2006, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on August 10, 2006.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this item is requested on August 15, 2006, to provide signalized traffic control at the access to the CSULB parking garage in a timely manner.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City of Long Beach will receive a payment from CSULB of \$185,000 in consideration of costs covering the design, engineering and installation of the traffic control devices at the project site. Until the city has received the payment from CSULB, existing appropriation will be temporarily transferred from another project. When the City receives payment, an appropriation adjustment can be made as a quarterly adjustment, and the borrowed appropriation can be returned to its original project.

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER