LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT **ITEM NO. 6.4**

DATE: September 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Brent Smith, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving an exception to the Livermore Municipal Code bidding requirements and authorizing sole sourcing of a specific Fonroche brand of streetlights equipment for the construction of Street Lighting Projects, including Project TC202518, through December 31, 2031.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The City Engineer recommends the City Council adopt a resolution:

1. Approving, per the recommendation of the City Engineer, an exception to the bidding requirement contained in Livermore Municipal Code Section 2.68.550(C) because there is no competitive advantage to be gained by inviting bids and the City Engineer has determined that the supplies and equipment are unique and available from a sole source;
2. Authorizing sole sourcing of the Fonroche Lighting America specific brand of equipment and instruments for the construction of the Street Lighting Project, including TC202518, through December 31, 2031; and
3. Authorizing the City Manager to take whatever actions are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purpose and intent of the resolution.

SUMMARY

The City of Livermore's (City) Street Lighting Projects involve maintaining and improving lighting levels throughout the City. The main objective is to further enhance pedestrian, bicyclist, and traffic safety. An additional objective is to reduce energy use and save maintenance costs by upgrading existing lighting equipment. Certain upgrades include renewable sources, such as solar powered streetlights. Solar lighting is the best option for adding new lighting as part of the Street Lighting Projects, including TC202518. Currently, Fonroche Lighting America is the only solar brand that meets the requirements of the project. To ensure that the City is fully equipped with the most reliable and effective solar lighting equipment, the City Engineer recommends that the solar powered street lighting equipment be sole sourced from the same and compatible "manufacturer, Fonroche Lighting America" pursuant to Livermore Municipal Code Section 2.68.550(C) for the next five years through December 31, 2031.

DISCUSSION

The objective of Street Lighting Project TC202518 is to improve the street lighting in the City by installing new streetlights and upgrading incandescent lights. As shown in Attachment 1, the major improvements are proposed along Vallecitos Road, Nissen Drive, and Autumn Oak Drive. Several other locations are included by resident requests. The project involves installing approximately 27 new solar powered lights and 22 new LED lights on existing wooden poles. For new streetlights on poles, rather than using the City's standard streetlight poles with wired streetlights, this project proposes to deploy solar powered streetlights, specifically the Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar light assembly on top of 25-foot-tall pole with 6' mast arm. Attachment 2 contains a photo of a standard Fonroche solar light assembly.

The reasons to deploy solar light instead of the traditional wired streetlight for the Street Lighting Project TC202518 are listed below:

- The existing utility infrastructures consisting of overhead power lines owned by PG&E and other utility companies pose a constraint for installing the typical light poles at several project locations.
- There are potential clearance limitations, high cost for constructing underground structures, disruptions to existing infrastructure, and delays due to materials and inspections by PG&E.
- Solar lights use a source of renewable energy, cause less disruption to roads and sidewalks during construction, save time on coordination with other utility companies, and are most cost efficient for installation compared to traditional wired streetlights.

Staff explored several solar streetlight products and found Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar light assembly is most recommended in the current market. Fonroche solar lights have a good performance history on Bay Area major streets, such as the City of Richmond, the City of Vallejo, and the City of Walnut Creek. In addition, the City completed a successful Street Lighting Project in May 2026 using Fonroche solar lights. City Council authorized sole sourcing the Fonroche Lighting America specific brand of equipment for the recently completed Street Lighting Project on June 9, 2025.

The other justifications to support an exception to bidding for the specific Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar street lighting equipment and instruments for the project are listed below:

- Shorter lead time than traditional lighting equipment and other solar lighting competitors.
- Unique Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) battery technology, sized for street and roadway applications. NiMH is important for use in autonomous solar lighting because it is the only battery technology capable of withstanding hot and cold temperature climates of -40° to +158°, with a replacement lifespan greater than 10 years.
- Only solar lighting manufacturer capable of central control and management of solar street lighting infrastructure. This allows cities to monitor and control functionality of solar street lighting infrastructure. Fonroche has a connected infrastructure base of 110,000 solar streetlights, sending over 7 million messages per day. This central control system provides a customer facing streetlight monitoring portal, allowing for continuous real time monitoring of each individual light.
- Only manufacturer offering a standard full 8-year, non-pro-rated parts and labor warranty.
- The system is uniquely suitable for both new pole locations and retrofitting existing poles and bases.

When the City identifies a need for using sole source manufacturers, Livermore Municipal Code (LMC) Section 2.68.550(C) allows for an exception to the bidding requirement contained in LMC Section 2.68.540, based on the fact that only one unique type of equipment can meet the requirements of the

project, and therefore, the bidding requirement is not necessary.

The Street Lighting Project TC202518 is currently under design by City Engineering staff. For new streetlights, the design is based on the specifications of the Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar lights. The final design is tentatively scheduled to be completed by September 2026.

In addition to Project TC202518, several annual Street Lighting Projects, including TC202613 and TC202712, are included in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan. Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the sole-source procurement of the Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar lighting products for these projects and other annual Street Lighting Projects through December 31, 2031.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

The budget for Street Lighting Project TC202518 in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan covers the cost of purchasing and installing the lights along with all other project related expenditures. Funding for this project comes from Gas Taxes and Measure BB - Bike/Pedestrian.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

1: A Safe Community that Thrives

GOAL

10: Work to make a safe and efficient local transportation network and address safety concerns.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location Map
2. Streetlight Exhibit
3. Resolution

Prepared by: Juan Tenorio
Assistant Engineer

Approved by:

Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:

Kristen Hilton
Acting Administrative Services Director