



## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM NO. 5.11**

**DATE:** June 9, 2025

**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, project TC201923.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The City Engineer recommends the City Council adopt a resolution:

1. Authorizing sole sourcing the Fonroche Lighting America specific brand of equipment and instruments for the construction of Street Lighting, project TC201923;
2. Approving, per the recommendation of the City Engineer, an exception to the bidding requirement contained in the 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; 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 (City)'s Street Lighting project involves maintaining and improving lighting levels throughout the City. The main objective is to further enhance pedestrian and traffic safety. An additional objective is to reduce energy used 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 Street Lighting project TC201923. 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 streetlighting equipment should be sole sourced from the same and compatible manufacturer "Fonroche Lighting America" pursuant to Livermore Municipal Code Section 2.68.550(C).

### **DISCUSSION**

The objective of this Street Lighting project, TC201923 is to improve the street lighting in Livermore by installing new streetlights and upgrading incandescent lights. As shown in Attachment 1, the improvements are proposed along East Avenue between South Livermore Avenue and South Vasco Road. Several other locations are included by resident requests. The project involves installing approximately 77 new LED lights on existing poles and 28 new solar powered lights. For new streetlights, 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 poles with a 6' mast arm. Attachment 2 contains a picture of a standard Fonroche solar light assembly.

The reasons to deploy solar light over the traditional wired streetlight for the Street Lighting project TC201923 are listed below:

1. 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.
2. There are potential clearance limitations, high cost for constructing underground structures, disruptions to existing infrastructures, and delays due to materials and inspections by PG&E.
3. Solar lights rely on a source of renewable energy, bring in less disruption to roads and sidewalks during construction, save time on coordination with other utility companies, and are more cost efficient for installation compared with 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 major streets, similar to East Avenue, in several other Bay Area jurisdictions such as the City of Richmond, the City of Vallejo, and the City of Walnut Creek. 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.
- 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° - +158°, with a replacement lifespan greater than 10 years.
- Only solar lighting manufacturer capable of central control and management of solar street lighting infrastructure. 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 street light 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.

The Street Lighting project TC201923 is currently under design by a consultant. For new streetlights, the design is based on the specifications of Fonroche Lighting America brand of solar lights. The final design is tentatively scheduled to be completed by August 2025.

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 shown 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.

### **FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS**

The budget for the Street Lighting project, TC201923, in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan, which is recommended for approval tonight, covers the cost of purchasing and installing these lights and all other project related expenditures. Funding for this project comes from Gas Taxes and State – SB1 Funds.

### **COMMUNITY PILLAR**

1: A Safe Community That Thrives

### **GOAL CATEGORY**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. [Location Map](#)
- 2. [Fonroche Light Assembly](#)
- 3. [Resolution](#)

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