



## Council Agenda Report

From: David LaCaro, Public Works Operations Manager

Subject: Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Bear Electrical Solutions for Citywide Traffic Signal Maintenance Services

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is categorically exempt under the Class 1 exemption, State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301.

Date: April 21, 2026

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### Facts

1. The City currently has 28 signalized intersections and 14 lighted pedestrian crossings. The intersections and pedestrian crossing all require routine maintenance—a least monthly—and occasional emergency repairs.
2. Bear Electrical Solutions (BES) has successfully provided the City with traffic signal maintenance, emergency on-call, and technical support services for the past eight (8) years. Pursuant to the current contract terms, the City has authorized contract extensions that allow continued services by BES, with an expiration of May 15, 2026.
3. Continued preventative maintenance and on-call services will facilitate the City's ability to enhance public safety; ensure system reliability and continuity of operations; support emergency response and mobility; reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow; align with adopted and planned transportation policies; preserve and protect public investments; and provide transparent reporting and technical support.
4. The City is in the process of completing its first Traffic Signal Master Plan. Teaming with a qualified professional and reputable traffic signal maintenance contractor to support long-term initiatives resulting from the competition of the Traffic Signal Master Plan will benefit the City.
5. On February 23, 2026, the City issued an invitation to submit proposals (request for proposals, or RFP) for citywide Traffic Signal Maintenance Services to qualified professional contractors in order to deliver high-level community services.
6. The City received only one (1) proposal from Bear Electrical Solutions on March 27, 2026. Upon review, the BES proposal met all required elements in the City's RFP. In addition, the cost proposal/fee estimate is within the allocated operational budget.

### Options

1. Take no action;
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a 4-Year Maintenance Service Agreement, subject to legal counsel review, with Bear Electrical Solutions to provide citywide Traffic Signal Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$137,288.00 for the first year and an appropriate CPI increase, not to exceed 5%, every year after; or
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## **Analysis and Conclusions**

The City of Paso Robles is responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 150 centerline miles of public roadway infrastructure, including a network of traffic signals and lighted pedestrian crossings that are essential to safe and efficient mobility throughout the community. The City currently owns, operates, and maintains 28 signalized intersections and 14 lighted pedestrian crosswalk systems serving local neighborhoods, commercial districts, school zones, and key regional travel corridors.

As the community continues to experience residential and commercial growth, traffic volumes have steadily increased, placing greater demand on the City's transportation infrastructure. Reliable traffic signal operations are critical to ensuring public safety, minimizing congestion, facilitating emergency response, supporting pedestrian accessibility, and maintaining consistent traffic flow along major corridors.

The City's traffic signal system has evolved in both scale and technical complexity. Modern controller equipment, detection systems, communications infrastructure, and safety enhancements require specialized expertise, timely maintenance, and accurate documentation to ensure continued performance and regulatory compliance. Proactive and preventive maintenance is essential to maximizing system reliability, extending equipment life, and reducing costly emergency repairs.

Importantly, the City does not have dedicated in-house staff with the specialized training, certification, or capacity necessary to perform ongoing traffic signal maintenance, troubleshooting, and emergency repair services. These systems require highly technical expertise and rapid response capabilities that exceed current staffing resources. As a result, the City relies on contracted professional services to ensure safe, compliant, and reliable operation of its traffic signal infrastructure.

The City's current Traffic Signal Maintenance Service Contract with Bear Electrical Solutions (BES) is expiring on May 15, 2026, and no further extensions are permitted. Choosing to take no action would create a gap in routine maintenance and emergency response services, significantly increasing the risk of traffic signal malfunctions and associated public safety concerns. Additionally, deferred maintenance would likely result in higher long-term costs due to increased system failures and the need for reactive repairs.

Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with BES supports the following:

- Ensures continuity of critical traffic signal maintenance and on-call emergency services with no disruption in service.
- Utilizes a qualified contractor (BES) with eight (8) years of demonstrated experience and familiarity with the City's traffic signal infrastructure, reducing onboarding time and operational risk.
- Provides access to specialized technical expertise that the City does not maintain in-house.
- Supports proactive, preventive maintenance practices, which help extend asset life and reduce costly emergency repairs.
- Aligns with the City's operational goals related to public safety, mobility, and infrastructure reliability.
- Demonstrates fiscal alignment by operating within the approved budget.
- Positions the City to effectively implement recommendations from the upcoming Traffic Signal Master Plan with an experienced and qualified partner.

**Fiscal Impact**

The total cost of the services proposed by Bear Electrical Solutions (BES), over a four-year period is \$574,362, including \$137,288 in the first year. Costs for years two through four include annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with increases not less than three percent (3%) and not to exceed five percent (5%) per year. This is consistent with the City's ongoing traffic signal maintenance program and were anticipated within the adopted Street Operations budget. Sufficient funding has been allocated to support these services, and no additional appropriation or budget amendment is required.

**CEQA**

The City finds that executing a 4-year Maintenance Service Agreement with Bear Electrical Solutions (BES) is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") under the Class 1 exemption, which applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features where the project involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. (State CEQA Guidelines, § 15301.) Further, the City finds that none of the exceptions to the Class 1 exemption apply.

**Recommendation (Option 2)**

Approve Resolution 26-XXX, authorizing the City Manager to execute a 4-Year Maintenance Service Agreement, subject to legal counsel review, with Bear Electrical Solutions (BES) to provide citywide Traffic Signal Maintenance Services in an amount not to exceed \$574,400.

**Attachments**

1. Resolution 26-XXX – Traffic Signal Maintenance Services
2. Bear Electrical Solutions, Proposal – March 27, 2026