



## NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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### **CITY TO CONVERT TO LED STREET LIGHTS USING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG) PROGRAM FUNDS**

The City of Chico will soon begin the physical conversion of 1,100 of the City's cobra head type street lights in various areas throughout the city from high pressure sodium (HPS) technology to new energy efficient LED lights. The City owns approximately 4,275 of the 6,600 existing street lights within the city limits. While the City is not able to replace all of the city-owned lights at this time, the project represents a great start in lowering energy consumption and costs, and the overall environmental impact attributable to the operation of street lights.

These new street lights represent the latest in LED roadway lighting technology, providing improved night visibility, clearer color rendition, lower energy consumption, reduced maintenance costs, and better lighting uniformity. Additionally, these new fixtures do not contain mercury and are "Dark Sky Friendly".

As it is with most cities, street lights account for over 1/3 the City of Chico's annual energy costs-equating to approximately \$675,000 in general fund expenditures each year. This project will result in more than \$58,000 per year in direct electrical cost savings to the City. LED lights also last 3 to 4 times longer than the existing HPS lights. As a result, the city anticipates an additional \$7,500 annual savings due to reduced street light maintenance costs. City staff is planning to replace additional street lights as funding becomes available, and is requiring LED lights in future development projects.

The new LED street light fixtures will have a slightly different look than the existing cobra head street lights and will require no significant disruption to citizens or infrastructure as they will be mounted on the existing streetlight poles and arms.

The City is excited that this \$650,000 project is funded entirely by the US Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program (Federal Stimulus funds). This project also leverages over \$120,000 in energy efficiency rebates from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

The City is working with PG&E on this retrofit program. The lights were purchased through PG&E at a reduced cost, and will be installed by a PG&E approved subcontractor determined through a competitive bid. This partnership will help ensure a seamless project, expedite rebate processing, and provide immediate cost savings from the day each light is replaced.

If you have any questions, please contact General Services Director Ruben Martinez or Public Works Manager Kirby White at 894-4200, or email [rightofwaymaintenance@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:rightofwaymaintenance@ci.chico.ca.us).