



DALY ALERT

Street Light Outages - Public Input Needed

Street lights need to be fixed

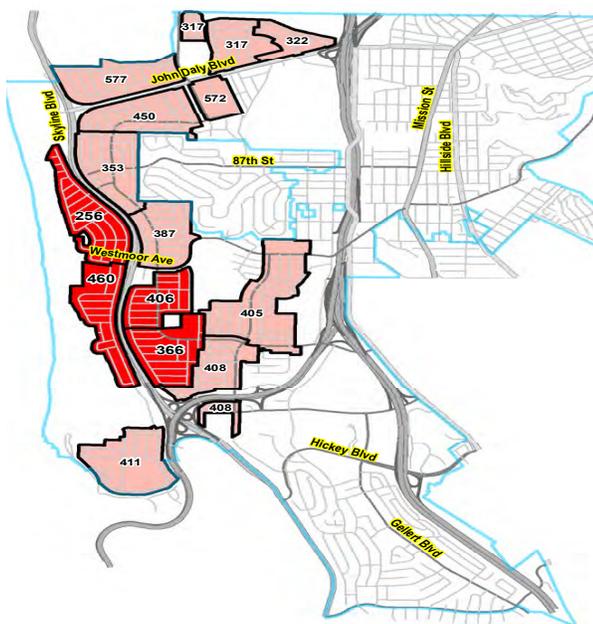
Increasingly over the last few years residents in portions of western Daly City in the Skyline, Palisades, Westlake, and St. Francis neighborhoods have experienced repeated street light outages, with the Skyline area north of Westmoor Avenue being the most heavily affected. Daly City's street light circuits in this area are aging and leaving approximately 3,000 properties or 8,500 people in the dark with considerable frequency.

The street light outages can make residents feel less safe as there is a perception that outages create an opportunity for criminal activity, affect business shopping hours, and can lead to negative impacts on motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, while decreasing the quality of life for residents.



Your input is needed to help find a solution.

If you missed the Street Light Open House on July 14, 2015, please visit www.dalycity.org/lights to learn more about the problem and possible solutions. Your input is important to us. Please participate in the street light survey on page 3.



ROs 256, 366, 406, and 460 experience the most outages across the 15 ROs owned by the City

What areas are most affected by street light outages?

The City owns approximately 3,310 street lights citywide. The High Voltage Regulated Output (RO) street light circuits account for 23% of the total inventory. The ROs most affected by the outages are the four highlighted in red on the map. This accounts for approximately 6% of the City's entire street light system.

How long has this been a problem?

These street light systems have served these neighborhoods since the 1950s and 1960s. Periodic problems with these lights have existed for decades, especially in areas most affected by coastal fog. Street light failures have increased over the years as equipment has aged and replacement parts have become more difficult to obtain. Affected street lights typically stay off for a few days or sometimes much longer depending on the cause of the failure and how quickly PG&E or the City can respond.

Is the City turning off street lights to save money?

No, the City has never turned street lights off to save money. In fact, only PG&E can turn these RO lights off. While the City continues to face the challenges of increasing operational costs and little growth in revenues, the City does not have a practice of reducing expenses by implementing "rolling blackouts."

Why can't Daly City resolve this issue?

The City's greatest challenge is financial. Revenue is simply not keeping pace with the cost of inflation and other increasing operational costs (e.g., fuel, energy, etc.).

The General Fund dollars, which are generated by property and sales taxes, are largely dedicated to providing police and fire services, libraries and parks, and general administration. In addition, many of the City's other tax revenue sources are restricted to specific capital needs that must serve all residents equitably.

There is simply not enough tax revenue to fix the lights and repave roads, fix potholes and storm-drains, repair sidewalks, and address the City's other growing capital needs all at the same time. It would take the City approximately 20-30 years to save up the money to replace the street light infrastructure. Basically, the City has \$2 to spend with \$20 worth of needs.

What are our options?

1. Status Quo:

One option is to maintain the status quo, which entails more street light outages and repairs based on PG&E's availability and the City's finances. The City would continue to work with PG&E to fix the lights as quickly as possible when they go out.

Sometimes the issue is City equipment and sometimes it's PG&E's. When it's the City's, we have a great deal more control in addressing the problem. However, whether or not the issue is ours or PG&E's, the City must coordinate and work with PG&E to make repairs. Because PG&E manages significantly more infrastructure than the City, it can be a challenge to make our local issues a priority for them.

2. Pay-as-You-Go:

Another possible option is to allocate and save a limited amount of General Fund dollars over several years to fund RO replacements. The cost to replace one RO circuit is approximately \$500,000 and is estimated to take up to five years to implement.

If funded solely by Daly City through a pay-as-you-go method, the project would take 20-30 years to fully replace the four street light circuits in the most seriously affected areas.

3. Assessment District:

The third option is the creation of an assessment district, which is a financing method backed by property owners and used by public agencies to fund the construction or maintenance of public improvements that directly benefit the parcels located within the boundary of the district.

This is typically financed with a bond over a period of time, such as 10 to 20 years. An assessment is levied on each property in the district, and once the bond or debt is paid off, the assessment is no longer collected.

How much would the street light replacement cost?

The replacement of one High Voltage Regulated Output (RO) street light circuit is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. The estimated cost to replace all four of the most problematic ROs is approximately \$2 million.

How much would a property owner potentially have to pay?

If an assessment district option was approved by affected voters in the area, each property owner pays a share of the cost of improvements over a period of time through their property tax bill, similar to a school bond. The costs per owner would depend upon the capital cost for the improvement, the size of the district and size of the property parcel.

An assessment district is typically financed with a bond. For example, with a 15-year bond, the assessment per property owner could range between \$75-\$150 per year. Once the bond is paid off, the assessment would retire and be removed from your property tax bill.

The City would hire a licensed engineer to determine the accurate and final costs as required by state law to determine the exact cost of the assessment per property owner.

Would I have a say in forming an assessment district?

Yes, property owners would have to approve, through a vote by those directly affected, the establishment of an assessment district. Owners would know specific terms and conditions **before** voting. Only residential and commercial property owners located within the proposed district are allowed to vote.

Learn more at www.dalycity.org/lights or email us your comments or questions at dalycitylights@gmail.com.

City of Daly City Street Light Survey

Dear Daly City residents,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this critical survey to measure the importance of street light repairs. The information collected is completely anonymous and will be used to measure the community's interest in fixing the outdated street light system and whether creating an assessment district to pay for upgrades is supported by survey participants. If you need more information about this issue, please visit dalycity.org/lights. Please consider the environment before completing this survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dalycitylights> to complete the survey online and voice your opinion faster! Only one survey per person. Responses should be mailed to: City of Daly City, City Manager's Office, 333 90th St., Daly City, CA 94015 by July 31st.

1. What is your age?

- 18 – 25
- 26 – 35
- 36 – 45
- 46 – 65
- 66 – 75+

2. How did you hear about the street light issue?

- Flyer
- Facebook
- Twitter
- NextDoor
- Newspaper
- Neighbor
- I am experiencing the problem myself
- Other: _____

3. Please select one of the following, I am a:

- Renter in zip code 94015
- Property owner in zip code 94015
- Business owner in zip code 94015
- Other: _____

4. Were you aware of the street light issue prior to receiving this survey?

- Yes
- No

5. Do you live in an area of frequent street light outages?

- Yes
- No

6. How concerned are you about street light outages?

- Very concerned
- Concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned at all
- I need more information

7. If you answered very concerned, concerned, or somewhat concerned to question 6, please select all that apply.

- Increased crime
- Foggy roadways
- Unsafe pedestrian walkways
- Economic challenges
- Not applicable. I am not concerned
- Other: _____

8. How likely are you to support an assessment district to fund the street light initiative for your area?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely
- Highly unlikely
- I don't know

9. How much is cost a factor in whether you support an assessment district?

- A major factor
- Somewhat a factor
- A factor
- Not a factor at all
- I don't know

10. How much would you be willing to pay monthly to address the street light issue in Daly City?

- \$21-25
- \$16-20
- \$11-15
- \$5-10
- \$0

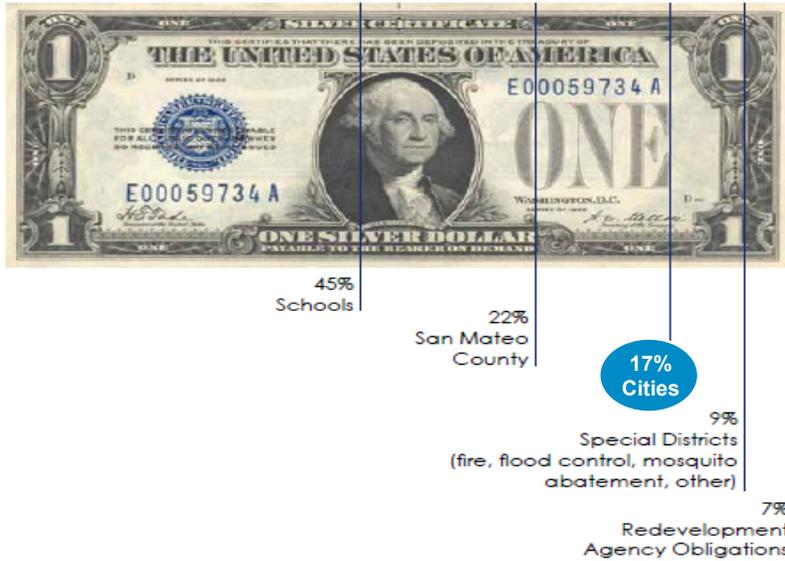
11. If you answered \$0, would you rather:

- Keep status quo and repair as needed
- Have the City pay for projects as money becomes available (20-30 year process)
- Have the city forgo other infrastructure projects such as repaving roads, fixing potholes
- I don't know

Thank you for participating!

Where Your Property Taxes Go

For every dollar in property taxes, the following receive:



Nearly half of your property taxes fund schools.

Cities receive 17% or 17 cents for every property tax dollar collected.

I pay my taxes - why can't the City fully fund street light replacements?

Property and sales taxes that the City collects are used to provide a wide range of services from full service police and fire departments, the operations of libraries and community centers, park maintenance and the administration of every City operation.

Revenues have simply not kept pace with increasing costs. The chart to the right illustrates how much revenue per person the City receives. And as the largest city in the County, with a limited residential tax base, funding direct services has in recent years received greater priority than funding capital investments. It continues to be a challenge for many cities in the state, including Daly City, to fund significant capital needs without increasing taxes.

Revenues Per Capita

	Population	Total Taxes per Capita
Burlingame	29,660	\$1,498.90
Redwood City	79,009	\$1,015.32
Menlo Park	32,881	\$856.70
San Carlos	29,002	\$843.66
South San Francisco	65,547	\$788.54
San Mateo	99,670	\$747.89
San Bruno	42,165	\$602.65
Daly City	103,690	\$518.96
Pacifica	38,189	\$512.73
Foster City	32,129	\$369.90

Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/dalycitygov or follow us on Twitter @dalycitygov.

Learn more at www.dalycity.org/lights



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