

DATE ISSUED: January 8, 2003

REPORT NO. 03-005

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Parking Meter Cards

REFERENCE:

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

Our current parking meter card supplier recently notified the City's Parking Management Division that they could no longer locate or provide cards, which are compatible with and can be "read" by San Diego parking meters. After extensive research, it has been determined that the electronic cards which can be read by San Diego meters are no longer available due to recent changes in the electronic chip technology used by the parking card industry. As a result, the City has worked with its parking meter manufacturer POM Incorporated to find a cost effective solution to this dilemma.

DISCUSSION

The City's parking meter manufacturer POM Incorporated is confident they have a viable solution for this problem predicated upon engineering and programming a small electronic device called a prom, which will be installed, in all of San Diego's meters. With this electronic upgrade, San Diego meters will be able to read both the parking meter cards currently in circulation as well as the newer version parking meter cards. Therefore, the most cost effective and timely solution appears to be to upgrade each of San Diego's nearly 5,000 parking meters with new electronic proms. POM Incorporated

is currently performing the necessary engineering and programming required to preprogram the electronic proms, which will be installed. It is anticipated that given the need for engineering, programming, and installation of these new electronic devices, San Diego parking meters will not be fully retrofitted and ready to accept new parking cards until late February or early March, 2003.

The Parking Management Division has also requested a written guarantee from POM Incorporated and their card manufacturer for a guaranteed supply of parking meter cards for a minimum of three years. Thus far, verbal assurances have been received that there should not be any changes to the newer version parking cards in the foreseeable future which would create an incompatibility with the upgraded meters.

Finally, the Parking Management Division is currently notifying customers of the issue regarding the unavailability of new parking meter cards at this time. Given that new cards will not be available for several months and because the current parking meter cards are rechargeable, customers are being advised to retain and recharge existing parking cards. Parking meter cards can be recharged at the following three locations:

Parking Management Division	1255 5 th Avenue	San Diego
Uptown Partnership	3108 5 th Avenue	San Diego
Uptown Information Kiosk	5 th and University Avenue	San Diego

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

D. Cruz Gonzalez
Director, Transportation Department

George I. Loveland
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