## **Department** of the Month

## **Bureau of Street Lighting**

A Day in the Life of the Bureau of Street Lighting



na Marrero, Senior Street Lighting Engineer 14 vears









#### A Message From the Director, Phil Reed

## **Bureau of Street Lighting:** Setting the Standard of Excellence

Phil Reed, Director,

**Bureau of Street Lighting** 

The Bureau of Street Lighting (one of six **L** Bureaus in the Department of Public Works) is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the street lighting system in Los

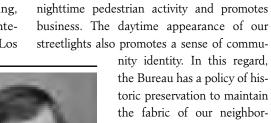
Angeles. Los Angeles has one of the largest municipal systems in the country and the world. We have approximately 230,000 streetlights with close to 400 different styles.

systems Our are designed to National Standards for Roadway Lighting (which we help to develop) adopted by the Board of Public Works, and we are constantly exploring new technology to ensure that street lighting in Los

Angeles maximizes light output for every single watt of energy expended.

We hire civil and electrical engineers and teach them illumination engineering. We actively recruit on college campuses for young men and women who are interested in a rewarding career in the field of lighting, which is both an art and a science.

The importance of good lighting and its relationship to public safety cannot be over-



nity identity. In this regard, the Bureau has a policy of historic preservation to maintain the fabric of our neighborhoods.

stated. It is a deterrent to crime, aids the

police in surveillance and pursuit, encourages

The Bureau also has its own construction forces, and we regularly coordinate with other City departments and other public agencies to deliver quality lighting projects "better, faster, cheaper and safer." Our services are available to all City departments and include not only street lighting but also the lighting

of bike paths, parking lots, parks, schools, sports fields and public facilities.

As one-third of Los Angeles does not have street lights, it is our goal to provide good quality lighting to every neighborhood that desires such. We are actively pursuing funding to accomplish this. With the continued support of our City family and our outstanding employees, street lighting in Los Angeles will continue to set the standard for excellence.



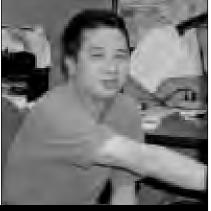
Jack Pettigrew, Street Lighting Electrician -10 Years



BACK LEFT - RIGHT – Robert Escobar, Management Assistant – 12 Years; Barbara Logsdon, Management Analyst II - 17 Years; Victoria Magallanes, Clerk Typist - 2 Years; SITTING Lisa Knight - Clerk Typist - 1 Year



LEFT- RIGHT John Radmacher - Welder, 1 Year; Frank Simmons, Welder - 26 Years; Larry Spillman, Mechanical Helper - 14 Years



Paul Wang, Engineering Associate, 9 years.



Anna Lim, Senior Management Analyst – 13 years; Mimi Lin, Senior Management Analyst, 15 years; Richard Chavarria, Management Analyst - 34 years; Loretta Rosas, Management Aid – 21 years.

# Department of the Month







Frank Sandoval, Superintendent – 35 Years

A Day in the Life of the Bureau of Street Lighting

Dan Thome, Assistant Street Lighting Electrician 3 years



FROM LEFT) Jose Carabantes, Civil Engineering Associate – 12 years; Eloy Perez, Civil Engineering Associate – 1 year; Rolando Gacias, Engineering Associate – 16 years; Miles Tatsumi, Improvements Assessor – 23 years; Kenneth Tsai, Improvement Assessor, 16 years



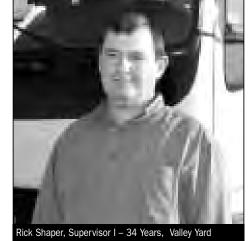






STREET LIGHTING 10420

14 Years



**LEFT - RIGHT** Orlando Usher, Electrical Craft Helper – 1 Year; Gabriel Cervantes, Electrical Craft Helper – 1 Year; ictor Mosely, Assistant Street Lighting Electrician - 2 Years



LEFT - RIGHT Tim Wallace, Street Lighting Electrician – 20 Years; Oscar Reyna, Assistant Street Lighting Electrician

### **Bureau of Street Lighting: PROFILE**

The Bureau of Street Lighting is one of six Bureaus in the City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works. Street Lighting is responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance and repair of the City's street lighting system. There are more than 230,000 existing streetlights consisting of more than 400 designs. Street lights provide illumination for streets, sidewalks, bus stops, transit stations and bike paths. The Bureau is organized by distinct functions: an engineering staff that will design and administer the construction contracts; a field operations crew that repairs and constructs street lighting systems; an assessment engineering group that administers the assessment districts; and a community services group that provide outreach and coordination with community groups, council offices and other city staff.

(FROM LEFT) Shan Yu, Engineer Associate – 1 year; K.C. Chuang, Improvement Assessor Supervisor – 16 years; Sandra Rodriguez, Clerk Typist – 29 years; Stan Horwitz, Executive Liaison – 37 years; Oscar Ramirez, Engineer Associate – 2 years; Tuan Vo, Engineering Associate – 15 years.

#### Management

- Phil Reed, Director
- Ed Ebrahimian, Assistant Director
- Mike Cates, Senior Engineer
- Norma Marrero, Senior Engineer

#### Mission

The Bureau of Street Lighting provide quality, timely, cost-effective and courteous service to the communities of Los Angeles in meeting the need for lighting of streets and public ways within established authorities.

Number of Employees • 230 employees **Annual Budget** • \$41 million

# Department of the Month

### **Bureau of Street Lighting:** Bright Lights, Safe Nights

■ Let there be light! The Bureau of Street Lighting, part of the Department of Public Works, installs, maintains and assesses more than 230,000 street lights in Los Angeles.

Where there is light, there is better safety. That's a working philosophy of the Bureau of Street Lighting, which works toward the planning, designing, maintaining and assessing of every municipal street light in the City.

With its 230 employees in three main locations responsible for more than 230,000 lights and 400 styles of fixtures, the Bureau reaches into most every neighborhood and street corner of the city. It's one of the largest municipal street lighting bureaus in the country.

As such, the Bureau receives no set City funding. Funding for its operations comes from three main sources: assessments paid by residents; fees paid by developers; and various other governmental and private sources.

"Los Angeles is lucky that so many private developers have been paying for lighting systems since the 1920s," said Bureau Director Phil Reed. "The City didn't require it of developers until the 1950s."

Who knew that when Thomas Edison flicked the switch on one of seven 150-foot-tall carbon arc lamps towering over downtown Los Angeles in 1882, it would eventually lead to the modern, efficient and wide-reaching Bureau? In actuality, the modern Bureau was created by a change in the city charter in 1925. Before then, it was part of the City's Department of Power and Light.

The Bureau works extensively with the LAPD, neighborhood/homeowner associations and chambers of commerce to alleviate what can be safety and security problems.

Currently, about two-thirds of the City has street lighting. Most of the remainder lacks street lighting for two reasons, according to Reed: they can't afford it, or, like portions of Brentwood and rural areas of the Valley, they don't want it.

"The Bureau's ultimate goal is for every street in Los Angeles to be lit to modern standards if they want to be.

"A lot of the areas without street lighting are in low- to moderate-income areas. They want street lighting, but they're in older areas built before the City required developers to install street lighting. We're working to help them as best we can. That's our main goal for the future."

The Bureau works with developers to install systems that work for everyone. Sometimes that means the Bureau has to limit what developers can do, but even at that, the City has installed more than 500 styles of light fixtures.

"Developers come to us who want a more unique or different system. We tell them, okay as long as they are willing to pay for it, and as long as it lasts. We want it to last for 40 years."

All to help the Bureau achieve its goal of lighting up the City of Los Angeles.

Wanna be heard? Send us your comments on this story: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

## **Street Lighting Museum**







A Day in the Life of the Bureau of Street Lighting

FRONT ROW: Yemila Alpuche, Clerk Typist – 2 years; Mary Jane Meer, Engineering Associate – 13 years; Agavni Sargsyan, Civil Engineering Draft Technician – 1 year.

**BACK ROW:** Thomas Huss, Office Engineering Technician – 14 years; Hank Bao, Engineering Associate, 13 years; Alex Salvador, Engineering Associate, 1 year; Thomas Torres, Engineering Associate – 37 years; Michael Morton, Engineering Associate – 1 year; Quan Le, Civil Engineering Drafting Technician – 11 years; Filiberto Villegas, Engineering Associate – 14 years; Glenn Guadalupe, Office Engineering Technician, 12 years.



23 Years; Chris Mosman, Street Lighting Electrical Supervisor I –

17 Years

Silva Batikian, Assistant Division Manager – 18 years.



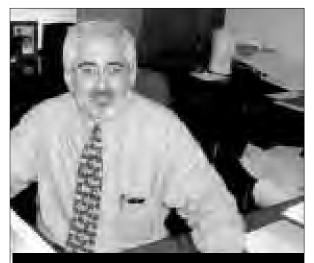
Frank Sandoval next to his favorite Light Post; "Wilshire Special"

Street Lighting "Museum"

FRONT ROW: Chris L. Enriquez, Engineering Associate – 10 years; Roger Murashige, Information Technologist – 35 years; Josue Medel, Engineering Associate – 5 years; Vasile Boboaca, Engineering Associate, – 1 year; Hung Ly, Civil Engineering Drafting Technician – 14 years; Ming Huang, Civil Engineering Drafting Technician – 20 years; Daniel Chwa, Engineering Associate – 15 years.

**BACK ROW:** Bobby Wong, Supervisor – 30 years; Rommel Navarro, Engineering Associate – 9 years; Rafael Huerta, Engineering Technologist – 11 years; Jorge de la Cerda, Senior Civil Engineering Drafting Technician – 14 years.





Ed Ebrahimian, Assistant Director, 16 years.