

Torrance Airport--Where did the money go???

After years of shoddy maintenance (if any), the airport's taxiway lights and some runway lights failed. In 2022, a request for repair bids was released. There was only one bidder: Elecnor Belco Electric, Inc. The staff decided to make no award and sought to encourage more bidders, we are told.

On April 11, 2023, a new airfield lighting repair contract was awarded to Elecnor Belco Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$427,888 plus a 5% contingency of \$21,394 for one year beginning April 11, 2023 and ending April 10, 2024. The Airport Manager reported to the Airport Commission that repairs would take about 2 months and be complete-by the end of July 2023.

For nearly four months at the beginning of this year (the longest nights of the year) the airport was completely closed from sunset to sunrise because the failed lights were still not repaired.

Nearly a year after the contract was awarded, the taxiway lights and south runway lights were STILL DARK, but on April 9, 2024, the City Council voted to extend the contract until the end of 2024. City staff stated that the "*city is satisfied with the level of service provided by contractor.*"

Fourteen months after the repair contract was awarded, the lights are still dark and there is no visible repair activity going on at the airport.

Where did that nearly half million dollars go? The City Council and City Staff refuse to provide any answers.