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Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services  
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Roads & Transportation  
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Watershed Protection  
Glenn Shephard, Director

June 6, 2023

Ventura County Watershed Protection District  
Board of Supervisors  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Receive and File Report by the Director of Public Works Agency on the Award of an Emergency Contract without Competitive Solicitation for Bids for Arundell Barranca Tributary Emergency Sinkhole Repairs and Completion of the Emergency Contract; Project No. P6082405, Specification No. WP23-05(E) in the amount of \$525,525.00; and determine pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22050(c)(2) that there is no need to continue the project on an emergency basis. Supervisorial District No. 1. (Recommendation No. 2 Requires 4/5ths Vote)**

**Recommendations:**

1. Receive and file the report within this letter by the Director of the Public Works Agency (PWA) on the award of an emergency contract to Summer Construction, Inc. of Santa Paula, CA without competitive solicitation for bids for the Arundell Barranca Tributary Emergency Sinkhole Repairs, Project No. P6082405, Specification No. WP23-05(E) in the amount of \$525,525.00.
2. Determine pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22050(c)(2) that there is no need to continue the project on an emergency basis (requires 4/5ths vote) as the contract has been completed.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**Executive Summary:**

This Board letter is an update and recommends closeout for this emergency contract that was first presented and approved by your Board on February 7, 2023. The contracted emergency repair work was completed on April 21, 2023. The contract was awarded for \$525,525.00 and was completed at a cost of \$489,706.50.



### **Background:**

The Arundell Barranca Tributary storm drain (District operated and maintained), consisting of approximately 500 linear feet of reinforced concrete and corrugated metal pipe (CMP), was built in 1967. The storm drainpipe runs underground from Foothill Road to Arundell Barranca in the backyards of seven residential properties, see attached Exhibits 1 and 2 for vicinity and location maps.

Over time, the CMP section of this storm drain deteriorated and failed. Some of the damage consists of pipe-joint separations, pipe misalignment, and perforated invert (bottom of pipe) at several locations along the CMP. This pipe failure produced sinkholes along the storm drain alignment. The sinkholes threatened to undermine the retaining walls supporting the adjacent residences.

### **Justification of Emergency Contract:**

The project site received heavy rainfall over the last weeks of December 2022 and the first week of January 2023. These storm events caused fast expansion, deepening, and connection of the previous sinkholes to each other. As a result, the CMP drain was undermined and failed to convey the storm flows safely downstream to Arundell Barranca. Imminent property threat developed at 489 Marymount Court, where a sinkhole expanded and exposed the concrete footing of a complex and cascading retaining wall system which supported a swimming pool and home.

During a site visit on January 7, 2023, staff determined that immediate action was necessary to protect the project site, stabilize the retaining wall, fix the extensive sinkhole damage caused by the recent storm events, and reestablish the failed CMP storm drain system to a functional state to prevent further property damage and excessive dirt/sediment discharge into its receiving channel (Arundell Barranca). The District, then, prepared construction plans and specifications and negotiated an emergency contract with the Contractor on a "Time and Materials Basis", see attached Exhibit 3. Simultaneously, PWA Real Estate Services, contacted affected property owners and acquired temporary easements and agreements for the required work and improvements outside of the District's right of way.

On January 10, 2023, the Director, Ventura County Public Works Agency, declared a local emergency due to the unsafe and threatening circumstances of the project site as described above. An emergency contract was then issued to Summer Construction, Inc. (Contractor) on January 12, 2023 to begin repairs. The Board approved the referenced project on that same day.

On January 12, 2023, the contractor mobilized on the project site and stabilized the sinkhole next to the retaining wall in question by filling the hole with 35 cubic yards of two-sack slurry mix design. The existing pipe and the cavities under the pipe were also filled with a product called Cell-Crete, a low-density cement slurry mix. A few sections of the



existing pipe were abandoned in place and the Contractor installed approximately 400 LF of new 42-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe with a concreted facing class rock riprap bank protection and down drain at the outlet. The trench of the new pipe was backfilled with Class 2 gravel (0.5 – 2.5 inches in size) to two feet above the top of the pipe, and with one-foot of native backfill material to match existing topography.

The continuing and persistent storm events of February and March delayed the installation of the chain-link fence and gates; the replacement and reconstruction of the concrete driveway approach at 486 Marymount Court (which served as the access point and was damaged during construction; the installation of concrete rings to raise the elevation of the existing manhole shaft where the new pipe was connected at the upstream end of the project; and fine grading of the finished surface at the project site.

All the above-mentioned items have been completed. The final inspection was conducted on April 13, 2023, a punch list was generated and completed on April 21, 2023; thus, completing construction contract requirements.

**Construction Cost Summary:**

Approved Construction Cost:	\$ 525,525.00
Final Construction Cost:	\$ 489,706.50
Total Construction Savings:	\$ 35,818.50

The above-reflects construction cost savings that were possible due to various field decisions that saved time and materials. The first major saving of the project was the use of Class 2 gravel to backfill the pipe trench rather than using conventional soil. Backfilling with gravel was faster and self-compacting. The second major saving of the project was achieved from District provided soil material for the last foot for pipe trench backfill (to match existing topography). This saved backfill material and delivery costs.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact the undersigned at (805) 654-2073.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.

Director, Public Works Agency

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2 – Location Map
- Exhibit 3 – Plans and Specifications

