

Central Services
Joan Araujo, DirectorEngineering Services
Vacant, DirectorRoads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, DirectorWater & Sanitation
Vacant, DirectorWatershed Protection
Jeff Palmer, Director

July 23, 2024

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

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Public Works Agency Director, or His Designee, to Execute a Consulting Services Contract with Earth Systems Pacific, for the Balcom Canyon Road – Roadway Stabilization at Mile Post 5.66; in the Amount of \$41,000; Contract No. AE24-046, Project No. 50660, Supervisorial District No. 3.

Recommendations:

1. Approve a consulting services contract with Earth Systems Pacific for the Balcom Canyon Road – Roadway Stabilization at MP 5.66, in the amount of \$41,000 and;
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works Agency, or his designee, to execute subject contract if approved.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: Road Fund
Funding Match Required: N/A
Impact on Other Department(s): N/A

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026
Revenue:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Costs:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Direct	\$ 41,000	\$ 0
Indirect - Agency/Department	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect – CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 41,000	\$ 0
Net Road Fund Costs Including Indirects	\$ 41,000	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Cost (Dept. and County CAP)	\$ 0	\$ 0



Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

Current 2024-25 Budget Projection for Road Fund - Unit 4081				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$33,836,300	\$33,836,300	\$33,836,300	\$0
Revenue	\$44,717,600	\$44,717,600	\$44,717,600	\$0
Net Cost	(\$10,881,300)	(\$10,881,300)	(\$10,881,300)	\$0

Sufficient appropriations are available in the FY 2024-25 Adopted budget.

Discussion:

In February 2024, the County of Ventura experienced multiple rain events causing damage to public works facilities. One of the roadways that was impacted by the heavy storm flows was Balcom Canyon Road at Mile Post 5.66 as shown on Exhibit 1 (Vicinity Map) and Exhibit 2 (Location Map).

At this location the roadway began to slide and become unstable. On February 4, 2024, the road was closed to thru traffic and remains closed today. The damaged road segment continues to move and separate based on weekly field measurements.

Initial investigation discovered a slide on private property above the road approximately 560 feet northeast of the southbound travel lane. The landslide mass and associated subsurface failures protrude across the road and down into the drainage to the west. There are two main areas of distress on Balcom Canyon Road at Mile Post 5.66 which are subparallel cracking and displacement with some additional cracking on the road west of the slide area.

Public Works Agency Roads & Transportation (PWA-RT) requires the service of a geotechnical firm to determine the cause and severity of the slide along with providing recommendations to stabilize the roadway. PWA-RT conducted phone interviews with multiple local geotechnical firms. Attached is a consultant services contract (Exhibit 3) which has been negotiated with Earth Systems Pacific (Earth Systems) as the most qualified and readily available consultant.

Under this contract, Earth Systems will perform the following scope of services:

1. Field Exploration. Consultant will drill a minimum of four borings between 50 and 80 feet below the existing ground to identify current slide conditions.
2. Laboratory Testing. Consultant will analyze various soil samples to determine subsurface site characteristics and extents of mitigation solutions.



3. Preliminary Memo. Consultant will develop initial conclusions and recommendations relevant to remedial construction including short- and long-term improvements.
4. Final Report. Consultant will provide details about the landslide and full recommendations to mitigate based on the geotechnical and geological conditions.

Earth Systems is expected to complete the scope of service before December 31, 2024. Payment for Consultant services will be made based on hourly rates and a lump sum fee. The total work will not exceed \$41,000 without modification of this contract.

As the slide is continuously moving, PWA-RT is not able to address the slide immediately. The geotechnical studies will allow the PWA-RT to properly assess the current condition of the road and feasible solutions. Therefore, we are asking your Board to approve the consultant contract.

Strategic Plan:

This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors 2024-2027 strategic priority to provide:

- I. Reliable infrastructure and sustainability through
 1. Investing in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and preservation of our natural resources.

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

If you have questions, please call the undersigned at (805) 654-2077.

Sincerely,



Anitha Balan, P.E.
Director
Roads & Transportation

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map
Exhibit 2 – Location Map
Exhibit 3 – AE24-046 – Earth Systems Pacific

