

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 08/13/02
Department Name: Flood Control/Public Works
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TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436
Cathleen Garnand, Civil Engineer Associate III, Ext. 3561

SUBJECT: **Twitchell Reservoir Emergency Sediment Removal Project,
Fifth Supervisorial District**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Award the construction contract in the amount of \$130,000 to the lowest responsible bidder John Madonna Construction, a vendor located at 12165 Los Solos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, CA subject to the provision of documents and certifications, as set forth in the plans and specification applicable to the project and as required by law;
- B. Authorize the Chair to execute the construction contract upon return of the contractor's executed contract documents, and the review and approval of the County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager or their authorized representatives; and
- C. Approve a 10% contingency fund in the amount of \$13,000 for the above subject project.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Twitchell Dam and Reservoir were constructed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for two principal purposes: conservation of water for groundwater recharge and flood control. Since the completion of its construction in 1958, the reservoir has accumulated sediment at an average annual rate of 1,200 acre-feet per year, more than twice the rate designed for the reservoir. Currently, the loss of storage capacity due to sedimentation exceeds 25 percent of the total capacity.

Sedimentation threatens the operation of the reservoir's outlet works. Following the 1998 rains of El Nino, a substantial amount of sediment and debris washed into the reservoir and completely blocked the opening of the lower port. Blockage of the lower port prevents passive flushing of sediment. Passive flushing is the only means of removing excess sediment and maintaining normal operations of the reservoir.

In the winter of 1999 while the reservoir was dry, the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District excavated material from the outlet works and opened the lower port. This work included construction of a gravel access road (along the alignment of existing ranch roads or on the reservoir sediment) to the lower port, construction of a gravel platform to provide a working surface for an excavator and dump truck, and removal of the accumulated sediment and debris that blocked the opening. Following the 1999-00 season, additional sediment and debris has covered the temporary access road and has partially blocked the lower port.

The project will remove sediment and debris from the outlet works in order to keep the outlet works in a normal operating condition. This work would be similar to the work performed in 1999 by the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District. The work will consist of removing sediment and debris from the lower port, improving the gravel access road and gravel platform at the lower port to support the excavating equipment, and minor repair of the metal trash racks at the outlet works.

On August 13, 2002, the Agency opened eight bids for the project. John Madonna submitted the apparent lowest responsible in the amount of \$130,000.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no changes in mandates or service levels for the current fiscal year. Completion of the project would help to preserve the capacity and operability of Twitchell Reservoir.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The project will be funded entirely under a federal appropriation from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This funding was provided under the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Appropriations Act of FY 2001 (PL 106-554) under the Economic Development Initiative as a special project for Santa Barbara County as "\$498,900 for costs associated with emergency sediment removal in Twitchell Reservoir". This project was included in a final budget adjustment for fiscal year 2002/03 in the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division. The project will be paid from Dept: 054, Acct; 7460, Fund: 3050, Program: 3011. The remainder of the \$498,000 federal appropriation will provide for similar work to be done on an as needed basis over the next five years.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.