



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER  
Clerk of the Board of  
Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: November 3, 2015  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** Construction of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve plans and specifications for the Construction of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District, on file in the Public Works Department office;
- b) Award the construction contract in the base amount of \$437,775.00 to the lowest responsible bidder, Granite Construction Company, P.O. Box 6744, Santa Barbara, CA 93160 (a local vendor), subject to the provision of documents and certifications, as set forth in the plans and specifications applicable to the project, as required under California Law;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached construction contract, which has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Risk Manager, or their authorized representatives;
- d) Authorize the Director of Public Works or designee to order the performance of itemized supplemental work, as provided in the construction contract, in the amount not to exceed \$10,400.00 for the Construction of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District;
- e) Authorize the Director of Public Works or designee to approve changes or additions to the work being performed under the construction contract in an amount not to exceed \$34,388.75 for the Construction of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System

Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District; and

- f) Determine that the Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project was found by your Board to be exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15301 on May 20, 2014, and that a Notice of Exemption was filed on that basis, and that the proposed action is within the scope of the attached Notice of Exemption.

**Summary Text:**

On September 10, 2015, five (5) bids were opened for the Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408. Granite Construction Company submitted the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$437,775.00, which is 19.5% above the Engineer's Estimate. The second lowest bid is 21.2% above the Engineer's Estimate. Although the lowest responsible bid is 19.5% above the revised Engineer's Estimate, by rebidding the project the Department is estimating a cost savings of approximately \$18,000 over the previous bid on May 28th, 2015.

The Department has determined that the following factors have contributed to this discrepancy in Engineer's Estimate and bid amount:

- a) A significant portion of the work is specialized electrical contract work. Currently there is a competitive bid environment for electrical contracting. Many of the larger electrical firms capable of performing the whole project are already engaged on large, long-term projects, and did not submit bids or make themselves available as electrical subcontractors for this project. This in turn has created the need of a general contractor to subcontract the majority of the work to an electrical contractor. This has resulted in much higher cost bids for this project.
- b) The electrical system being utilized in this project is specialized and not widely utilized in California. The designer and the Department did not have previous bid data to formulate an accurate cost estimate for this specialized equipment.

This project was bid in accordance with the Public Contract Code, which requires the award to the lowest responsible bidder. The Department analyzed the bids and determined the low bid is responsive and responsible. The Department recommends awarding this contract to Granite Construction Company.

**Background:**

The existing Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 is a reinforced concrete arch bridge constructed in 1915 that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is approximately 125 feet long and 23 feet wide, and crosses Rincon Creek, which is the jurisdictional boundary between the County of Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura in this area. Due to deterioration of the supporting columns at Bent 4, a supplemental steel support frame and pile structure was constructed in 1968 to provide support to the damaged columns supporting the pre-cast arch.

This project will retrofit the existing Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 with a seismic gate system, including the installation of two 22 foot long motorized gate arms, flashing beacons and illuminated warning signs at both approaches to the bridge. These warning gates are lowered only when the new sensors are triggered by a nearby earthquake. Control cabinets will be constructed near the bridge to house additional elements of the system, including back-up battery system and a telephone link to alert the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department when the system has been activated. In addition to these items,

some minor improvements will be constructed to protect the proposed installations and provide adequate turn-around width in advance of the seismic gate arms.

During active construction activities, Rincon Hill Road will have single-lane, reversing, traffic control in the project vicinity. During daytime construction, full roadway closures with a maximum of 20-minute delays are permitted. After each stoppage, all accumulated traffic for that direction must pass through the work zone before another stoppage is made. The full width of the traveled way will be open to traffic when there are no active construction activities in the traveled way. This includes Fridays after 3:00pm, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. All traffic control and temporary road closures will be conducted in coordination with emergency service providers, and will be opened immediately for the passage of emergency service vehicles. There is an alternate route available to roadway users, by travelling on State Route 150, which intersects with Rincon Hill Road approximately 0.5 miles north of the project site and Highway 101 approximately 0.65 miles to the north of the Bates Road/Rincon Hill Road off ramp. By taking this alternative route, roadway users would add approximately 1-1/2 miles to their route to reach the north side of the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in November 2015, and end in February of 2016.

On May 28, 2015, one (1) bid was opened for the Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project. The lone bid, submitted by Shaw Contracting, Inc., was for \$455,725.00 and was 60% above the engineer's estimate at the time of \$283,605.00. In receiving only one bid for the project, the Department could not adequately determine if the engineer's estimate was too low. Receiving a single qualifying bid for a construction project is uncommon and by re-advertising the project at a later date, the Department was planning to capitalize on a more competitive bidding environment that would result in more responsible and more cost effective bids. Your Board rejected the May 28, 2015 sole bid and authorized re-advertisement of the project on July 21, 2015.

On May 20, 2014, your Board approved the Project, and the Notice of Exemption, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and authorized the Public Works Department to advertise for construction bids. This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project.



**Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 from the southwest corner of the structure**

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
Highway Bridge Program (HBP)	\$427,214
Prop 1B - Seismic	\$55,350
Total	\$482,564

**Narrative:**

The total Construction costs, including supplemental work and contingencies, amounts to \$482,564. The Highway Bridge Program (HBP), administered by Caltrans, will fund \$427,214 (88.53% of participating costs); matching funds of \$55,350 (11.47% of participating funds) will be provided by Proposition 1B Seismic revenues; Funds for this project are budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund 0017, Org Unit 0600, Program 2830, Department 054, Account 7510.

**Key Contract Risks:**

This contract has been assigned a risk assessment of medium. The project is fully funded in the current fiscal year budget.

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward the following to Blair Gilbertson in the Public Works Department, Transportation Admin, at extension 3094:

- a) A certified, stamped Minute Order approving these recommendations
- b) Original signed Special Provisions sheet
- c) Two original executed contracts (one original contract to remain on file with the Clerk of the Board)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Contract for the Construction of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 over Rincon Creek Seismic Gate System Project; Federal Project BRLOZE-5951(118); County Project No. 830408 (3 original)

Attachment B: Notice Exemption (previously approved on May 20, 2014)

**Authored by:**

Christian Doolittle, P.G., C.E.G., Project Manager, 739-8777