



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** August 19, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director  
Contact: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** **Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road; County Project No. 24STM1-3L10; Third Supervisorial District**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the plans and specifications on file in the Public Works Department Office for construction of Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road, County Project No. 24STM1-3L10, in the Third Supervisorial District;
- b) Award the attached construction contract for the Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road, County Project 24STM1-3L10, in the amount of \$360,476.16 to the lowest responsive bidder, Seamair Construction, Inc., 205 Suburban Rd, Ste 2, San Luis Obispo, 93401, 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) Authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to approve change orders for Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road, County Project No. 24STM1-3L10, for a contingency amount up to \$32,156.31 plus an additional \$32,650.00 for supplemental work items, for a total not to exceed authorization of \$425,282.47;
- d) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached construction contract for County Project No. 24STM2-3L10, which has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager, or their authorized representatives;
- e) Approve a Budget Revision Request No. 0010748 to increase appropriations of \$48,800 in Public Works Roads-Operation Fund for Services and Supplies funded by Measure A; and

- f) Determine that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 CCR § 15301(c) as the proposed project(s) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities; determine that the project is also statutorily exempt from the emergency provisions of CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR § 15269(c) as this project(s) is necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency that does not have a low probability of occurrence and the time to conduct an environmental review of this project would create a risk to public health, safety, or welfare; and direct staff to file the attached Notice of Exemption on those bases.

### **Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to approve the plans and specifications for the Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road Project and to award a construction contract to Seamair Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$360,476.16.

On Thursday July 3, 2025, the County received 15 construction bids for the Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road Project. The bids ranged from \$360,476.16 to \$564,950.00 with an average bid amount of \$437,437.95. The Engineer's estimate was \$404,000 which is about 12.1% above the lowest bid amount. The Department reviewed the bid documents submitted by the lowest bidder, Seamair Construction, Inc., and found their bid to be responsive. In accordance with the Public Contract Code, the award should be made to the lowest responsive bidder.

### **Discussion:**

After the February 2024 significant storm event, immediate emergency work was required to restore both the road and the natural alignment of Nojoqui Creek following storm damage along Alisal Road. The response involved extensive upstream creek channel clearing, re-alignment, and debris removal, along with critical downstream repairs to re-establish vehicle access to the east and south areas and protect nearby facilities at Nojoqui County Park.

The work site is located directly adjacent to one of the most consistently used nesting areas for the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) in Santa Barbara County. This site, monitored for many years by the Audubon Society, is one of the only known nesting locations for this species within the County.

To protect the sensitive habitat, County staff coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and met on site with Audubon Society representatives. In response, repair activities needed to prevent or mitigate a future emergency have been carefully phased to avoid the Purple Martin nesting season. Additionally, staff has already planted twenty (20) five gallon sycamore trees along the creek bank to help offset the loss of several mature trees during the 2023 and 2024 storm events. These plantings are intended to support the natural regeneration of habitat used by the Purple Martins for nesting and help support the recently repaired banks of Nojoqui creek.

The project is planned in two phases and scheduled around both the winter rainy season and the bird nesting season. This approach was developed collaboratively by CDFW, environmental advocates, representatives of the Audubon Society, and County staff. Under the CDFW emergency permit, work was required to begin within one year of the storm event, but project completion was allowed to extend into the second year to minimize environmental impacts during sensitive biological periods (MBTA).

The lack of significant rainfall during the 2025 season prevented further damage to Alisal Road and Nojoqui County Park.

Had the County not initiated and continued this emergency project, completing new CEQA documentation and obtaining the necessary regulatory permits would likely have taken approximately five years. Leaving the site in disrepair for that duration would have posed significant risks to public health and safety, jeopardized County roadway infrastructure, and threatened the integrity of Nojoqui County Park facilities.

### **Background:**

During the February 8, 2024 storm event, 24STM1, Alisal Road and the surrounding area experienced intense rainfall. The storm event caused unusually high runoff volumes due to the high precipitation. The increase in stormwater flow exceeded the capacity of the existing 48" culvert and caused it to clog and led to the excess stormwater to overtop onto Alisal Road. This caused localized flooding and created unsafe driving conditions.

A hydraulic analysis determined that the existing single 48" culvert needs to be replaced with four 48" diameter reinforced concrete pipes to allow the expected stormwater volumes to flow through this area of Nojoqui Creek. Concrete headwalls will be constructed at both the inlet and outlet of the new culvert system, to provide structural support and protect against erosion.

These design improvements will be done by open trench excavation, meaning that Alisal Road will be fully closed during construction. Full closure of the road will allow the construction crew to complete the culvert replacements more efficiently and safely, therefore minimizing the construction duration and long-term disruption to traffic.

Immediate emergency repair work that was completed previously was statutorily exempt on May 10, 2024, a Notice of Exemption was filed on that basis, and the approved action can be found below: <https://santabarbara.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6662545&GUID=F7A15D32-BE74-4DD0-AE55-28E07FE744E5>.



*Figure 1: Debris blocking existing culvert*



*Figure 2: Stormwater overflowing Alisal Road*

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes, with the approval of Budget Revision 0010748

As part of the 2024 Storm Emergency Opening Repairs, this project is Federally funded, and County Costs are expected to be reimbursed at 88.53%.

The total construction costs, including supplemental and contingencies, amount to \$425,282.47. Total amounts by funding source are listed in the table below. Funds for this project are budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund 0015, Org. 0400, Program 2910, Project 24STM1, Account 7510.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY [2025-2026]	Total
Federal (FHWA)	\$376,502.57	\$376,502.57
Measure A	\$48,779.90	\$48,779.90
		<b>\$425,282.47</b>

**Special Instructions:**

Please send to Public Works – Transportation, Ashley Kruzel, [akruzel@countyofsb.org](mailto:akruzel@countyofsb.org), the following documents:

- A Minute Order approving these Board actions
- Executed contract (County Project 24STM1-3L10 Storm Damage Repairs). Original copy to be filed with the Clerk of the Board
- Signed Plans Title Sheet. Original copy to be filed with the Clerk of the Board.
- Signed Special Provisions sheet. Original copy to be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Original Construction Contract for 24STM1-3L10 Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road about 6.4 miles south of State Highway 246, County Project 24STM1-3L10

**Attachment B** – Original Plans for the Construction of 24STM1-3L10 Storm Damage Repairs on Alisal Road about 6.4 miles south of State Highway 246, County Project 24STM1-3L10

**Attachment C** – Original signed Special Provisions sheet; County Project No. 24STM1-3L10

**Attachment D** – Budget Journal Entry No. 0010748

**Attachment E** – Notice of Exemption

**Contact Information:**

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