



**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: December 16, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director
Contact: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Transportation

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 for Services of Independent Contractor for the Santa Maria River
Levee Bike Trail Project, County Project No. 862372; Fifth Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor for the Santa Maria River Levee Bike Trail Project, County Project No. 862372(PRJ-000619), increasing the cost by \$23,003.07 for a total not to exceed contract amount of \$334,175.07 and extending the period of performance to December 31, 2027;
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to, in accordance with the Agreement: extend the period of performance for up to one additional year (§ 4.B); make immaterial amendments (§ 34); and suspend performance (§ 46.); and
- c) Determine the above actions are not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because it consists of organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to execute an Amendment to the existing Board Contract BC23-266 for Services of Independent Contractor (Agreement) with EMC Planning Group Inc. (EMC) to complete the design and environmental components of the Santa Maria River Levee Bike Trail Project, County

Project No. 862372 (project PRJ-000619). The existing Agreement covers environmental review, permitting, and safety design related to the project.

The Department required additional support from EMC to evaluate an alternative alignment design along the south toe of the levee that was not in the original scope, prepare a proof Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and make minor revisions to the Administrative Draft EIR to align with the updated County Environmental Thresholds & Guidelines Manual. In addition, a time extension is required to complete the EIR, National Environmental Policy Act documents, and Section 408 permitting, as well as finalize the conceptual design plans. The time extension is needed to allow for additional support services and to align permit approvals with the funding schedule, as project funding has not yet been secured.

Discussion:

Staff recommends that the Board approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with EMC to extend the contract term and increase the not-to-exceed amount. The proposed amendment is necessary to complete the remaining scope of work resulting from extended project timelines and additional tasks identified during project implementation.

The time extension will also provide needed flexibility to align with permitting schedules, construction timing, and funding availability, which remain undetermined at this stage. Approval of the contract amendment will allow the project to proceed without interruption, maintain funding eligibility, and support the successful completion of project objectives.

Background:

The Santa Maria River Levee (levee) is a 17-mile stone-revetted levee located along the south side of the Santa Maria River. The levee was designed to convey peak flows on the Santa Maria River from the confluence of the Cuyama and Sisquoc Rivers downstream to Highway 1 near the City of Guadalupe.

On June 2, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors accepted a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to develop the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study to serve as an informational tool. The goal of the study was to engage with the community and help identify constraints and opportunities associated with the trail. The proposed trail is identified or referenced in previously adopted plans and policies in the region. The levee trail study is separate but related to a study prepared by the California Coastal Conservancy that studies potential trail alignments for a trail from the City of Guadalupe to the beach.

Published in 2022, the levee trail study area consists of an approximately 6.7-mile-long segment of the levee that stretches from the western terminus of the Tom Urbanske Multi-Purpose Trail in the City of Santa Maria to the City of Guadalupe. This segment of the levee is surrounded by agricultural lands on the south side with areas of farmland north of the levee within the riverbed. The levee is a highly regulated facility that protects life and property in the Santa Maria Valley. Therefore, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) must grant permission, via a Section 408 Permit, for any physical improvements or proposed use of the levee to determine if the trail will impair the usefulness of the levee as a USACE civil works project.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for the preliminary environmental review, Section 408 permitting, and bike trail safety design services of the proposed public bike trail along the Santa Maria River levee. Public Works evaluated the two proposals received based upon the selection criteria

defined in the RFP. Staff determined that EMC met all required qualifications and experience criteria and was ranked as the highest responsive proposer. The original Agreement with EMC was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 5, 2024.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes, the project is budgeted in the FY 2025-26 adopted budget. The budget for FY 2026-27 will be added to the recommended budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The total costs, including contingencies, amount to \$334,175.07. The project is funded by the SCE Settlement funds, and budgeted in Fund: FD-0017, Spend Category: SC-7460, Program: PG-0542830, Project: PRJ-000619:

Funding Source	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	Total
Fund Balance (SCE Settlement Funds)	\$25,989.15	\$151,065.74	\$134,117.11	\$23,003.07	\$ 334,175.07
Total	\$25,989.15	\$151,065.74	\$134,117.11	\$23,003.07	\$ 334,175.07

Special Instructions:

Please forward the following items to Kalani Durham in the Public Works Department, Transportation Division, 123 E. Anapamu Street, kdurham@countyofsb.org:

- A certified, stamped Minute Order approving these recommendations
- One duplicate original executed amendment signature page, one complete original executed contract to be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Attachments A and A-1 – Amendment No. 1 to Original Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor between County of Santa Barbara and EMC Planning Group Inc. for the Santa Maria River Levee Bike Trail Project, County Project No. 862372 (PRJ-000619) and Proposal from EMC Planning Group Inc.

Attachment B – Original Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor between County of Santa Barbara and EMC Planning Group Inc. for the Santa Maria River Levee Bike Trail Project, County Project No. 862372 (PRJ-000619)

Contact Information:

Kalani Durham, Engineering Environmental Planner/Coordinator, kdurham@countyofsb.org