



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

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: November 10, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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: **Purchasing Authorization for Drainage and Structure Components, All Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding to procure drainage and structure components, parts, and supplies used in maintenance, repair, and replacement of drainage systems and structures, without competitive bids on an as-needed basis, effective through June 30, 2022; and
- b) Determine that the proposed actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 14 CCR 15378, as they involve administrative and other general policy and procedure making activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding in order to facilitate more rapid and efficient replacement and repair of transportation infrastructure.

County Code Section 2-39 authorizes the purchasing agent to waive competition when there are limitations on the source of supply, necessary restriction in specifications, or other valid reasons after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Public Works recommends waiving competition for procuring prefabricated structural elements.

Failure or degradation of bridges, storm drains, and other structures can have a big impact on access and mobility. These failures can happen due to degradation over time, or during disasters and emergency events. Failures often cause road closures and this requested action would allow a quicker response.

The structural elements and parts needed to repair or replace the failing infrastructure are often highly customized, project-specific, and can take a long lead time if they are separately designed, purchased,

fabricated, and delivered. With this waiver, the Department would be able to take advantage of the time savings of the design and fabrication being done concurrently by the same company. This could save weeks or months in the lead time to get these elements installed and restore the traveled way.

Background:

The waiver of bids meets all three categories of the waiver test: limitations on the source of supply, necessary restriction in specifications, or other valid reasons.

Sources of this type of prefabricated structures are not available locally, and few companies have the capability to manufacture them. Often when these products are bid out, the County does not receive multiple bids that meet contract and price requirements. Sole sourcing would allow the County to use reliable suppliers with the resources to fabricate rapidly-deployable inventory.

Drainage and structural systems must meet demanding traffic loading requirements, as well as Federal, State, and County design requirements. Most sites where this waiver would be applied have unique circumstances that require non-standard fabricated elements with restrictive specifications.

Also, many of these elements need to be customized for their specific location. Having a waiver to get the shop drawings designed and the fabrication done by the same company saves significant time and cost. To avoid construction delays, the Department would be able to order these parts in advance of awarding construction contracts, thereby reducing the wait time for the contractor to begin construction.

This process would help the County realize considerable time and costs savings. In addition, when roads are shut down or impacted by structural and drainage systems that are out of service, it is imperative to get them operational as soon as possible for public safety. For all externally-funded projects, purchases will be made in accordance with applicable Federal and State procurement requirements.

Your Board approved a similar waiver of bids request previously in 2001, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2017 for traffic devices. The last two prefabricated bridges the County purchased for roads were sole sourced due to lack of bidders. This blanket waiver will allow the Purchasing Agent to proceed legally, when the need arises, and without the delays in the procurement of materials which would allow the Department to respond to operational safety concerns and operate more cost-effectively by reducing the lead-time on improvements and emergency repairs. Public Works recommends your Board authorize through June 30, 2022, the ability to expedite equipment purchases from structural and drainage element vendors, without a maximum limit of \$25,000.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no direct fiscal impacts as a result of this action. All work and related expenditures for these components, have been budgeted in Department 054 as part of maintenance and repair activities or as part of Capital Improvement Projects.

Special Instructions:

Please provide a certified, stamped Minute Order approving these actions to the Public Works, Transportation Division, Attention: Lisa Hamilton, x83064.

Authored by:

Chris Sneddon, Transportation Division, 568-3064