

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR SUNSET AVENUE RETAINING WALL PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA DOCUMENT (DISTRICT: 4)

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego's (County) Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains nearly 2,000 centerline miles of roads in unincorporated San Diego County. Centerline miles represent the total length of the roads regardless of the number of lanes or the overall roadway width. County roads traverse a variety of regions and conditions, from two-lane roads in mountainous terrain to multi-lane roads in dense population centers. All County-maintained roads are regularly evaluated for safety measures to protect the public. Typical safety measures include traffic signals, roadway signage, and guardrails; but on occasion, other more specialized safety measures, such as retaining walls and similar structures are required to prevent erosion and slope failure.

Sunset Avenue is a County maintained road located in unincorporated La Mesa along Mt. Helix. The location of the improvements along Sunset Avenue are on a section of one-way roadway between the intersections of Fuerte Drive and Summit Circle for a distance of about 0.17-miles. The proposed project will construct a retaining wall to support the roadway in place of the existing foundation constructed from stacked, unreinforced rock structure. The existing foundation is subject to erosion and seismic failure. The proposed improvements will construct a retaining structure known as a soldier pile wall. Soldier pile walls are predominantly used where there is a sudden change in elevation, such as steep embankments to prevent the lateral movement of soil and will provide a strong foundation for the roadway.

The repair work will be to remove and replace about 100 linear feet of the existing roadway to allow the installation of soldier piles and associated lagging panels. The roadway will be resurfaced, an asphalt curb will be installed along the edge of the road to control storm water runoff and a chain link fence will be installed for the length of the repair to replace the existing failed fence. During construction, Sunset Ave will be closed along the one-way section of roadway and traffic will be detoured to Summit Drive, a roadway that parallels Sunset Avenue to the south. The detour is anticipated to add an additional .07 miles to the trip or about an addition 45 seconds. Adjacent residence will be able to access their homes and driveways during construction. These improvements will ensure that the roadway will be safe for local residence and the traveling public.

This is a request to approve the advertisement and subsequent construction contract award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Sunset Avenue Retaining Wall Project. If approved, construction costs are estimated to be \$600,000, including contingencies, for a total cost of \$750,000. Construction will begin in spring 2025 and is anticipated to be complete in summer 2025.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find in accordance with Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA review because it involves the maintenance and repair of existing facilities involving no or negligible expansion of existing use. Find in accordance with Section 15304 of CEQA Guidelines that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA review because it consists of minor alterations to public land without removal of mature trees.
2. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to take any action necessary to advertise and award a contract and to take other actions authorized by Section 401 et seq., of the Administrative Code with respect to contracting for curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, throughout the unincorporated region of the County.
3. Designate the Director, Department of Public Works, as the County Officer responsible for administering the construction contract in accordance with Board Policy F-41, Public Works Construction Projects.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego strives to preserve, enhance, and promote quality of life and environmental resources through the implementation of projects that improve road facilities. Rehabilitation of retaining walls offers several equity benefits, including enhanced safety and preserved infrastructure. A functional retaining wall prevents soil erosion and protects properties from damage. Retaining walls often support sidewalks, roads, or other infrastructure. Rehabilitation safeguards these structures, preventing costly repairs and ensuring they remain accessible to all. County of San Diego construction contracts are also competitively and publicly advertised and bid and help stimulate the local economy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The repair work for the Sunset Ave Retaining Wall will have economic and environmental sustainability benefits. Upkeep of existing infrastructure prevents more costly future maintenance efforts, thereby reducing environmental impact and supporting economic sustainability. The retaining wall repair work proposed in this action will utilize fewer resources compared to demolishing the wall and rebuilding it entirely. This translates to conserving raw materials and minimizing construction waste which contributes to San Diego County's sustainability goal of reducing pollution and waste.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Department of Public Works Road Fund Detailed Work Program. If approved, the construction costs are estimated at \$600,000, including a 20% contingency for unforeseen conditions. The total estimated project costs are \$970,109. The funding source is available prior year Road Fund fund balance. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

County of San Diego construction contracts are competitively and publicly bid and help stimulate the local economy by creating construction-related employment opportunities. All workers employed on Public Works projects must be paid the prevailing wages determined by the Department of Industrial

Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements. A skilled and trained workforce requirement will be included in the contract in compliance with the County's Working Families Ordinance requirements for County construction projects.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Vargas

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter