

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: November 21, 2023

From: Public Works Department

Subject: Repair of Stockton Avenue Bridge

Recommended Action: Approve the plans, specifications, and construction estimate for the Stockton Avenue Bridge Storm Repair Project; authorize Public Works staff to advertise for construction bids; and authorize Amendment 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt & Nichol in the amount of \$18,500 to complete the necessary approvals for construction for the project.

Background: On January 5, 2023, the Stockton Avenue Bridge experienced damage to its pier walls and west wing wall due to a storm. Although the damage does not presently pose a threat to the bridge's structural integrity, it necessitates immediate emergency repairs.

City staff successfully secured funding for professional engineering services and construction through the Federal Emergency Relief (ER) Emergency Opening (EO) program, a collaboration between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans Local Assistance (Caltrans LA). The total funding allocation for repairing the bridge damage is \$443,750.

On April 27, 2023, the City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt and Nichol, not to exceed \$34,488, for design, permitting, and construction support services for the Stockton Avenue Bridge Storm Repair Project.

City staff has been working on obtaining the necessary permits, including those required by the Coastal Commission post-construction. Construction has been scheduled to coincide with the opening of the lagoon and before the onset of the rainy season, ensuring that Soquel Creek's water levels are at their lowest. The estimated timeline for construction is December 2023 or January 2024, dependent on weather conditions.

Discussion: Dependent on site conditions the project may be constructed from either the bridge deck, which would necessitate closure of the bridge for periods of time, or from the creek bed if water levels are low enough.

Cranes may be positioned on the bridge to facilitate the removal of larger debris and assist in the repair process. Staging will take place on the bridge and on an unpaved access area on the northeast side. All necessary repair equipment and materials will be transported by truck. There might be a brief closure of the westbound lane during certain repair phases due to safety concerns related to construction equipment on the bridge. However, lane closure is likely unnecessary if repairs are carried out from the dry channel. Construction activities are planned to occur during daylight hours and are expected to span a maximum of three weeks.

A comprehensive description of the proposed emergency repair activities can be found in Attachment 1 (Project Description), and a set of plans illustrating the intended repairs is included in Attachment 2 (Stockton Bridge Repairs).

Fiscal Impact: Both the design and repair expenses will be fully eligible for reimbursement through the FHWA Emergency Relief EO Program. The estimated cost for the bridge repairs amounts to \$355,000, and with the contract amendment, the final design cost is estimated to be around \$53,000.

CEQA: This project meets the criteria for an "emergency" as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(a), which exempts from CEQA projects in an area in which the Governor has proclaimed a state of emergency pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act. Here, the Governor issued such a proclamation, regarding damage caused by storms in California, on January 4, 2023. This project, which is in the area subject to the emergency declaration, is thus exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Cal. Pub. Res. Code Sec. 21080(b)(3). A Notice of Exemption (NOE) form has been submitted to the Santa Cruz County Clerk. Additionally, the project has received approval for emergency repairs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCWQCB), and it has obtained an Emergency Coastal Permit Determination (ECPD) from the California Coastal Commission. The ECPD necessitates that the City follow up with a comprehensive Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application to secure permanent authorization for the emergency project.

Attachments:

1. Project Description
2. Project Plans
3. Contract Amendment

Report Prepared By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk; Tamar Burke, Assistant City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager