



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 18, 2026

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Wescott Road Project – Project Update and Additional Infrastructure Costs

RECOMMENDATION:... Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this update regarding the Wescott Road Project and approve the use of \$831,939 from the Water and Sewer Funds to cover additional costs associated with the replacement of aging water service lines, water valves, and sewer connections encountered during construction.

Staff further recommends that the City Council authorize the use of LTF funds for up to \$209,954 to address unforeseen soil compaction and related roadway/storm-drain infrastructure issues identified during construction, as recommended by the City's Engineer.

BACKGROUND The Wescott Road Project was originally developed to address the deteriorating condition of the roadway and provide a long-term improvement to one of the City's important transportation corridors.

As construction progressed and the roadway was ground out in preparation for repaving, the City and its contractor were able to identify a number of aging and deteriorated underground infrastructure components that could not reasonably be addressed without opening the roadway.

These included aging water service lines, water valves, and sewer connections that were at or near the end of their useful life.

While these additional improvements have increased the overall cost of the project, staff believes that completing this work while the roadway was already under construction was the most financially responsible decision for the City.

During the construction process, it became apparent that several water and sewer components located within the project area required replacement or significant improvements.

The City is proposing to allocate \$831,939 from the Water and Sewer Funds to cover these additional infrastructure costs.

Staff recognize that this is a significant additional expenditure. However, not completing this work at this time could have resulted in substantially greater costs in the future.

Once Wescott Road was ground out and repaved, addressing these underground water and sewer deficiencies would have required the City to cut into a newly completed roadway. Such future repairs could have resulted in significant additional costs for excavation, roadway restoration, traffic control, engineering, construction, and associated repairs.

More importantly, waiting until after the roadway was completed could have created a situation where a water or sewer failure required the City to disturb a newly constructed road. The City could potentially have been faced with millions of dollars in additional costs over time repairing the underground infrastructure and restore the roadway.

By completing this work now, the City is taking advantage of the construction project already underway and addressing infrastructure that would otherwise have remained buried beneath a newly reconstructed roadway.

During construction, the project also encountered unforeseen soil compaction issues that required additional work to properly prepare and stabilize the roadway.

The additional work associated with these conditions has resulted in costs exceeding the original estimate by approximately \$209,954.

According to the City's Engineer, these costs are appropriately associated with the storm drainage and roadway infrastructure improvements. Staff is therefore recommending that LTF funds be utilized to fund the additional \$209,954.

The use of these funds will allow the City to properly address the unforeseen conditions without placing the entire additional cost on the General Fund.

BUDGET IMPACT: Use of Water sewer reserves and LTF funds

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend that the City Council receive and file this update regarding the Wescott Road Project

ATTACHMENT: Budget summary

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