



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Operations Committee/Board of Directors
Title: District Paving Program Update
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: November 15, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action X Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive staff update on current District paving program, District initiative to control paving costs, and next steps of the proposed pilot paving program

SUMMARY: The District’s asphalt concrete paving costs have risen in recent years for planned maintenance, emergency repairs, and capital projects within jurisdictions in the District’s service area. In recognition of these cost increases, the District has been implementing changes to day-to-day procedures that help to realize cost savings on capital and operational projects that have a paving component associated with them. In order to help evaluate paving requirements and compare them to industry standards throughout the US, the District contracted with Kimley-Horn. Out of this work, Kimley-Horn helped to develop a proposed pilot paving program that the District could implement with collaborating jurisdictions on future projects in an effort to save costs incurred by the District.

Staff will provide a presentation that highlights initiatives taken to control paving costs, the status of the pavement management study, and next steps of the proposed pilot paving program.

DISCUSSION: The District’s Operations Division performs approximately 440 water system leak or water main break repairs per year, while the Engineering Division replaces upwards of six miles of water pipeline per year through its Capital and Fire Flow Improvement Programs. The District has experienced an increase in pavement restoration costs for both planned maintenance and emergency repairs as well as capital projects within jurisdictions in the District’s service area. This increase in paving costs has outpaced material and labor costs in the San Francisco Bay Area, prompting the District to evaluate cost-saving opportunities on projects and to pursue the development of a pilot program that the District could implement on future projects with collaborating jurisdictions.

Some of the procedural efforts staff have taken to reduce paving costs include:

- Aligning District infrastructure repairs with Jurisdictional capital projects;
- Optimizing the location of District water pipeline to reduce total paving restoration requirements; and

- Negotiating roadway restorations with more consideration of existing pavement conditions.

In order to develop a paving pilot program, the District contracted with Kimley-Horn, who specializes in pavement and roadway infrastructure amongst other civil engineering specialties, to study optimal ways of evaluating roadway restoration projects with an eye to developing a restoration standard and process that would reduce the current restoration standard and result in cost savings for the District. The District will be able to utilize the engineered paving restoration solution to negotiate with jurisdictions within the District's service area in an effort to reduce subjective pavement condition ratings that normally result in extensive paving restoration limits. The goal is to provide a more cost-effective and minimally impactful solution to the public and environment. The key goal of this effort is to develop a pavement restoration standard that provides similar or improved roadway performance, aesthetics, and rideability to the current standards without the extensive pavement restoration requirements.

This effort culminated in recommendations for a pilot paving program centered on pavement performance standards and performance warranty agreements that will be presented to local jurisdictions that have expressed interest in participating in the proposed program. The District and Kimley-Horn are currently preparing a proposed paving standard and draft memorandum of understanding that would incorporate a long-term pavement performance warranty. Once complete, staff will return to a future Board meeting for authorization to execute the memorandum of understanding for this effort. Staff is looking to start discussions with local jurisdictions early next year to implement this proposed pilot program.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.