

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: April 19, 2004

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Emergency repairs - Sinkhole in Arroyo Boulevard at Stanton Street and Sewer repairs at San Pascual Street and Greenwood Avenue and Revision of P.M.C Section 4.08.150 to Increase Emergency Purchase Limits from \$25,000 to \$75,000

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Receive the following report on emergency repair of a sinkhole in Arroyo Boulevard at Stanton Street, and emergency sewer repairs at San Pascual Street and Greenwood Avenue; and
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.150 to increase the amount at which emergency purchases are to be reported to the City Council from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

BACKGROUND

On the morning of March 4, 2004, City inspectors were called to investigate a sinkhole in Arroyo Boulevard at Stanton Street. It was determined that a 24-inch diameter metal storm drain pipe had collapsed, and storm water had washed away the pavement and material under the pavement, creating a hole 7 feet deep, 30 feet long, and 15 feet wide. Emergency work was required to repair the sinkhole to make the street safe and passable, eliminating the danger to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. (See Exhibit A - photos) In addition, repairs to the collapsed storm drain were required before the next storm to prevent substantial additional damage to both public and private facilities.

Pasadena Municipal Code (P.M.C.) Section 4.08.150 empowers the Director of Finance or his authorized representative, with the approval of the City Manager, to secure without competitive bidding, material and services in the event of an emergency. Accordingly, Purchase Order No. 22849 in the amount of \$50,000 was issued to the firm of E. C. Construction for the repair of the sinkhole. E. C. Construction has previously provided the City similar services as a result of the competitive bidding process, was able to respond to the emergency in a timely manner, and is familiar with the workings of the City's storm drain system.

In a separate incident, emergency services were also required to repair the City sewer in San Pascual at Greenwood Avenue. This sewer line runs full by design because it runs under a County Storm Drain Channel known as the Rubio Wash. A blockage of the sewer line created an imminent health hazard. City crews were able to clear the blockage, but evidence indicated that the pipe was severely damaged. Because the sewer always runs full, it was difficult to assess the extent of the damage, however, by removing the flow of water and televising of the line, City crews were able to confirm that the sewer pipe had failed, and were able to pinpoint the location of the failure. Repairs to the failed sewer were initiated immediately to avoid a subsequent blockage that could result in sewage spilling into the public street or into private property.

As a result, Purchase Order No. 22266 in the amount of \$20,000 was issued to Tyner Paving for repair of the sewer. Tyner Paving Company was selected because they have previously provided the City similar services as a result of a competitive bidding process, have satisfactory completed work of a similar nature, and are in good standing with the City.

The services for this purchase order were on a time and material basis and it was estimated that repairs would be under \$20,000. At the time of issuance of the purchase order, the extent of the damage and the method of repair were not known. The contractor installed a bypass system to dewater the sewer, and excavated to expose the sewer at the point of failure. City staff, working with the contractor, developed a method to repair the damaged sewer. The cost of the repair could not have been accurately predicted prior to the dewatering and exposure of the damaged area. The actual cost of performing the investigatory excavation and repairing the sewer was \$27,866.

P.M.C. Section 4.08.150 empowers the City Manager to undertake emergency purchases; it also requires that a full report of the circumstances of any such emergency be filed with the City Council where the expenditure exceeds \$25,000.

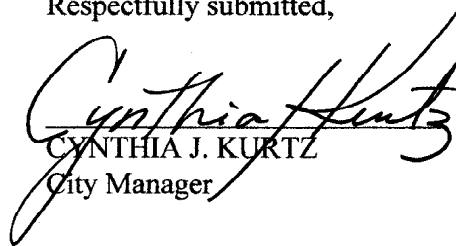
In order to become more efficient and save time in the future, staff recommends that the City Council raise the amount at which emergency purchases are to be reported to the City Council from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This would have aided in both instances, as the expenditures for emergency repairs were \$27,866 and approximately \$38,000. Increasing the reporting threshold to \$75,000 would make Section 4.08.150 consistent with Section 4.08.025, which authorizes the City Manager to approve all contracts less than \$75,000.

Therefore, it is requested that the City Council receive the above report regarding emergency repair of a sinkhole in Arroyo Boulevard at Stanton Street, and emergency sewer repairs at San Pascual Street and Greenwood Avenue. Furthermore, it is requested that the threshold for reporting emergency purchases to the City Council be increased to \$75,000.

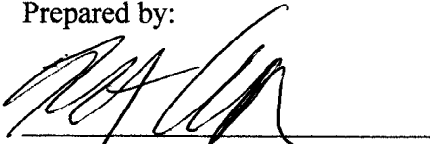
FISCAL IMPACT

The actual cost to repair the sinkhole in Arroyo Boulevard at Stanton Street is approximately \$38,000 and will not exceed the \$50,000 purchase order amount. Sufficient funds are available in Budget Account 76476, Preventive Maintenance Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) Storm Drains for these repairs. The actual cost for emergency sewer repairs at San Pascual Street and Greenwood Avenue is \$27,866.00. Sufficient funds are available in Budget Account 76260, Preventive Maintenance Sewer System, for the sewer repairs. It is anticipated that revising P.M.C. 4.08.150 will save staff time in the future as well as provide greater consistency within the Municipal Code.

Respectfully submitted,

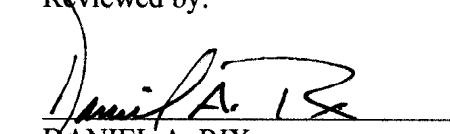

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