

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL July 13, 1998

FROM: Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: Rehabilitation of the Linda Vista  
Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard Trunk Sewer:  
Construction Contract Award

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Accept the bid, dated June 2, 1998, from Clarke Contracting Corporation in response to the specifications for the Rehabilitation of the Linda Vista Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard Trunk Sewer and authorize the Acting City Manager to enter into such contract as required. The amount of the proposed contract is \$680,000.
- (2) Acknowledge the project to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines (repair of existing sewerage systems with no expansion of use beyond that previously existing) and authorize the Acting City Manager to execute and the City Clerk to file a Notice of Exemption therefor with the Los Angeles County Clerk.
- (3) Approve a journal voucher appropriating \$95,000 in Sewer Funds to Budget Account 76523 (Linda Vista Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard Trunk Sewer).

## SUMMARY:

The report discusses the purpose, construction details, bid results, schedule, and funding status of the project that calls for the replacement or rehabilitation of various sections of the generally 75 year old, deteriorated Linda Vista Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard trunk sewer.

## BACKGROUND:

Plans and specifications for the subject project, which is included in the adopted Capital Improvement Program, were prepared by the Public Works and Transportation Department. In accordance with Section 4.08.070 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, bids have been requested and received.

The project provides for the replacement or rehabilitation of various sections of a 5-mile long trunk sewer that generally runs along Linda Vista Avenue and Arroyo Boulevard. The sewer extends from the Foothill Freeway near Devils Gate Dam in the north to the City's southerly boundary at Columbia Street. Portions of the sewer traverse City streets, while other portions are located along the side or bottom of the Lower Arroyo Seco.

The project calls for the replacement of pipe sections exhibiting structural damage and/or offset joints, the rehabilitation of pipe sections exhibiting leaky joints and/or root intrusion, the installation of a carrier pipe inside the existing cast iron casing that crosses over the Arroyo Seco Flood Control Channel, and the reconstruction of selected manholes. Pipe rehabilitation consists of root fumigation, hydrocleaning, root removal, initial television inspection, joint testing, joint sealing, and final television inspection.

The plans and specifications have been reviewed and approved by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County pursuant to discussions regarding the relinquishment of the trunk sewer to that agency. Relinquishment of this deteriorated, generally 75-year old line following the completion of construction will free the City from responsibility for its future operation and maintenance.

A finding of compliance with the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan was previously made and is shown on Page 8.13 of the approved FY 1998-2002 Capital Improvement Program.

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines (repair of existing sewerage systems with no expansion of use beyond that previously existing) and it is recommended that the Acting City Manager be authorized to execute and the City Clerk to file a Notice of Exemption therefor with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

The project was advertised in the Pasadena Weekly on May 15, 1998. In addition, the Notice Inviting Bids was published in two trade publications and letters were sent to 12 minority contracting organizations informing them of the project and requesting that members of their organizations submit bids. Bid packets were obtained by 18 contractors, including two protected class owned firms – neither of which submitted a bid for the project.

One bid was received on June 10, 1998 as shown below:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Clarke Contracting Corp., Lawndale	\$591,084.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$562,192.00

The lack of interest in this project is chiefly due to a large volume of underground construction in Southern California at this time. Of the 18 contractors that obtained bid packets, only Clarke Contracting Corporation and five other firms were potential bidders. The other 12 firms were potential sewer rehabilitation subcontractors or materials suppliers. The failure of any of the other potential prime contractors to submit bids is, according to our investigation, due to the difficult nature of the work involved. The major portion of the work involves bypassing sewage flows in excess of 3,000 gallons per minute by the use of large portable pumps in order to remove and replace large diameter pipes. Most of the pipe sections that need to be replaced are along the steep slope on the east side of the Lower Arroyo Seco where

there is limited access and standard equipment cannot be used. Most underground contractors do not possess experience in performing this type of work. When evaluating available projects in the current active construction environment, these contractors apparently prefer to pursue contracts for more straightforward, routine work.

Clarke Contracting Corporation is an experienced, capable contractor that is well qualified to undertake this project having performed similar work on the Linda Vista Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard trunk sewer in 1994 as part of its contract for construction of the new Oak Grove Drive gravity flow sewer. The firm has made a thorough analysis of the project's requirements and has carefully examined the terrain. Although it's bid is 5.1 percent higher than the Engineer's Estimate, it is felt that it is a reasonable one in light of the factors discussed above and, consequently, it is recommended that the firm be awarded a contract for the project. Rejection of the bid and readvertising for bids next year would not necessarily result in any cost savings. Further deterioration of the sewer could lead to an increase in the scope of the work needed to put the line in a good state of repair.

The proposed contract with Clarke Contracting Corporation fully complies with the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance and the rules and regulations promulgate thereunder as did the contractor selection process. Clark Contracting Corporation has a total permanent work force of 27 employees of whom 21, or 78 percent, are protected class individuals. The contractor has indicated that there will not be any new hires as a result of this project.

The proposed contract with Clarke Contracting Corporation will be set up as follows:

Base Bid	\$591,084.10
Contingency Allowance	<u>88,915.90</u>
Contract "Not to Exceed" Amount	\$680,000.00

A 15 percent contingency allowance is recommended because underground construction typically generates an above average amount of extra work due to subsurface conditions that cannot be known until the commencement of excavation operations. In addition, as the trunk sewer was last televised in 1995, it is possible that some deteriorated pipe sections scheduled for rehabilitation may have suffered additional deterioration that would necessitate that they be replaced rather than rehabilitated – a more costly proposition.

It is anticipated that construction will begin in August 1998 and be completed in January 1999.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The estimated cost to complete this project is as follows:

Construction Contract	\$680,000
Construction Engineering	<u>42,500</u>
	\$722,500

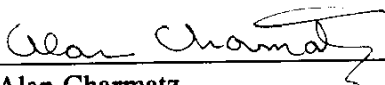
As Budget Account 76533 (Linda Vista Avenue/Arroyo Boulevard Truck Sewer) has an estimated balance of \$628,456, there is an approximate shortfall of \$94,044. This shortfall is attributable to an expansion of the scope of work due to operational deficiencies discovered during the preparation of the detailed plans and specifications, the present active underground construction environment, and the difficult nature of the work itself.

It is recommended that the project not be delayed since the work involved needs to be done to protect public health whether the trunk sewer is relinquished to the County Sanitation Districts or remains in City ownership. Approval of the recommended journal voucher appropriating \$95,000 from the unappropriated balance of the Sewer Fund to Budget Account 76523 will allow the project to be completed in a timely fashion.

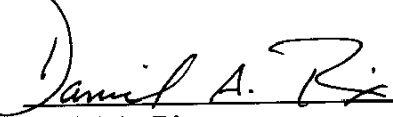
Respectfully submitted,

  
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