



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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District One

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District Two

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District Three

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District Five

AGENDA DATE: July 30, 2024 – REVISED

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Agreement with Moffatt and Nichol for Professional Engineering Consulting Services for the Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an Agreement with Moffatt and Nichol to provide Professional Engineering Consulting Services for the Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project, near the City of Woodlake, in an amount not to exceed \$917,307.49, effective July 30, 2024, through December 31, 2029.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the Agreement.

SUMMARY:

The County proposes to replace the former one-lane bridge on Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek, located approximately 8 miles northwest of the City of Woodlake, with a permanent crossing. The former structure, consisting of simply supported 4-span timber girders with a cast-in-place concrete deck on laminated timber flooring on timber column/pile extensions, was constructed in 1939.

In March of 2023, the County of Tulare experienced a series of severe rainstorms (atmospheric rivers) causing significant and widespread flooding and damage to numerous roads, bridges, and related infrastructure. As a result of the significant flows along Cottonwood Creek, the Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek Bridge was structurally compromised, and thereafter closed to public access/use per Caltrans recommendation. To reinstate access over Cottonwood Creek, the County demolished the damaged bridge and established a temporary structure designed to accommodate a 25-year storm. This temporary solution ensures that nearby property owners have access

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to all-weather road and bridge facilities, guaranteeing full access in anticipation of the upcoming rainy season.

On March 22, 2024, the Resource Management Agency (RMA) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for qualified firms to provide professional engineering consulting services for the Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project (Project). On April 12, 2024, RMA received 5 proposals from interested engineering firms:

1. Biggs Cardosa Associates Inc.
2. Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group
3. Moffatt and Nichol
4. RMA GeoScience, Inc.
5. TRC

The Project will be federally funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and must meet all federal requirements; therefore, proposals were reviewed based on the following criteria recommended per the Caltrans' Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM):

- Experience with similar projects
- Understanding of the work to be performed and project approach
- Quality of staff and demonstrated technical ability
- Capability of developing innovative solutions
- Financial responsibility and availability
- Overall impression and responsiveness

To comply with federal requirements (for federally funded projects) and with state law, consultant selection was based solely on qualifications and the criteria described above. Cost and office location of the consultants could not be considered.

The proposals were independently reviewed by a three (3) member panel of staff from RMA. After reviewing the proposals, the top three firms, consisting of Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group, Moffatt and Nichol, and TRC were shortlisted and interviewed by the same panel. The interviews were scored based on slightly different criteria consisting of the following:

- Understanding of the work to be performed
- Experience with similar kinds of work
- Innovative solutions
- Answers to panel questions

After interviewing all shortlisted consultants, Moffatt and Nichol was selected as the top ranked consultant. The selected Project team consists of the following firms:

- Moffatt and Nichol – Project Management and Structural Engineering Services
- Area West Environmental, Inc. – Environmental Services

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- Avila & Associates – Hydraulics and Hydrology Services
- Kroner Environmental Services – ISA/ADL Hazardous Materials, Air Quality, Noise Analysis
- Duke CRM – Cultural Resources and Paleontology
- Earth Mechanics, Inc. – Geotechnical Engineering
- QK, Inc. – Survey and Right-of-Way

Upon completing negotiations with Moffatt & Nichol, as the prime consultant, a not to exceed amount of \$917,307.49 (including optional services) was established as fair compensation for the scope of services required for the Project.

Design of the Project is anticipated to take approximately two (2) years to complete, including bridge and roadway design, environmental analysis, and right-of-way clearance. Following this timeline, construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2026. Depending on the alternative selected, the Project may take between nine (9) to fifteen (15) months to construct.

This Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel. The following deviates from County boilerplate:

- The Contract disallows claims against the Contractor for construction costs and/or material estimates that ultimately deviate from the estimates provided under the consulting agreement.
- Contractor immune from liability for County's modifications to or improper reuse of work product.
- Contractor immune from special, consequential, indirect, or incidental damages, including lost profits.
- The term of the Agreement is five years.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost to the General Fund.

This Project (RMA No. 00731541-002) was approved as part of the 2024/2025 County Transportation Improvement Program (CTIP). Staff anticipates a 93.75% reimbursement ratio through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (Disaster Relief) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). The remaining 6.25% will be covered through local County Road funds. In the event the County does not receive federal and state reimbursement, the Project will be entirely funded through local County Roads funds.

A summary of the estimated project cost for the Avenue 404 over Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project is as follows:

Preliminary Engineering:	\$1,130,000
Right-of-Way Support / Acquisition:	\$50,000
Construction:	\$5,132,000

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Construction Engineering:	\$528,000
Total:	\$6,840,000

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Safety and Security and Economic Well Being – This project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the motorists using this facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A: Vicinity Map

Attachment B: Agreement for Professional Engineering Consulting Services with
Moffatt and Nichol