



## County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

### Agenda Item Submittal

**From:** Community Development and Infrastructure

**Subject:** Ratify Contract for the March 2023 Winter Storms Projects

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2025

**Formal Title:** Ratify contract with Bouthillier's Construction, Inc. for the March 2023 Winter Storm emergency projects, and take related actions

### Recommended Action

Ratify award and execution of Contract No. 24D1000 with Bouthillier's Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$126,000 for emergency repair construction services.

### Executive Summary

Ratify contract with Bouthillier's Construction, Inc., for the March 2023 Winter Storm emergency projects.

### Discussion

The March 2023 Winter Storm events caused significant damage to County infrastructure, most notably to roadways across the County. The County declared this storm event a local disaster on March 13, 2023. During these storms, County infrastructure was damaged or destroyed and presented a threat to the safety of the public requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential public services. Public Works has prepared a summary of ongoing emergency projects and the type of work it requires.

On May 16, 2023, the Board directed Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) to return on or before June 27, 2023, with Independent Contractor Agreements (ICA) associated with the projects from the declared storm event. On June 27, 2023, CDI requested additional time to gather necessary documents for the ICA's.

All work is completed for this project and executing the contract will allow reimbursement on the project to proceed (FEMA).

- Contract No. 24D1000 was for the construction of an emergency storm damage soldier pile wall repair project at Redwood Road Post Mile 0.05

The Deputy CAO/Director of Community Development and Infrastructure determined pursuant to delegated authority that these damages constituted an emergency within the definition of Public Contract Code Section 1102 as these presented an imminent danger to the public requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential public services. Failure to complete immediate debris removal and associated ditch cleaning for re-establishment of minimum overhead safety clearances, obstacle free driving surfaces and working County infrastructure directly impacting County-maintained roadways and stormwater facilities would result in hazardous and unsafe areas and roadway conditions for multiple agencies as well as County staff and residents throughout the damaged County areas. This project was first reported to the Board on December 5, 2023.

### Financial Impact

The total direct cost of the contracts associated with this board item is approximately \$126,000 and will be financed by debt, future federal and state reimbursements, local county transportation funds and/or reductions in current transportation projects or operations.

Eligible costs will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at a maximum of 75 percent for County or local roads and the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) will reimburse up to a maximum of 18.75 percent of FEMA project-eligible costs.

Public Works staff estimate that the total reimbursement from all agencies could be \$118,125. This assumes recovery of approximately 94% of the costs paid upfront by the County. However, based on recent FEMA claims experience, recovery rates could drop far below 80% by the end of the 5 to 10-year recovery cycle. Any disallowed costs, plus a local match of \$7,875 and costs already deemed ineligible of \$15,120 will be paid by local transportation funds, debt-financed, and/or reductions in current transportation projects or operations.

## **Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Reliable Transportation, Operational Excellence

### **Submitted By:**

Matt Machado

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.