



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 3/18/2025

File #: 25-277

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Public Works

Agenda Section: Consent

Vote Requirement: 4/5th

SUBJECT:

Change Order Authorization for Storm Damage Repair to Alderpoint Road (F6B165) Post Mile 7.58 (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute, the attached Contract Change Order Number 7 for the total amount of Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$528,296.50) (4/5 Vote Required); and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to provide the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works with one (1) fully executed certified copy of the Board order related to this item.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommended actions support the following areas of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan:

Area of Focus: Core Services/Other

Strategic Plan Category: 9999 - Core Services/Other

DISCUSSION:

On March 7, 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors ("Board") authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise Storm Damage Repair to Alderpoint Road (F6B165) Post Mile 7.58 for bids. On April 11, 2023, the County of Humboldt received four (4) bids for the project. On May 16, 2023, the Board awarded the project agreement to Mercer-Fraser Company, the lowest responsive bidder, in the amount of Eight Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$865,955.80). The work consisted of removing material above the roadway and installing subsurface and surface drainage systems and erosion and sediment control items.

Contract Change Order Number 7 compensates Mercer-Fraser Company for extra work required to extend the limits of the planned excavation due to an unforeseen slope failure. The Department of Public Works ("Public Works"), the design consultant, Mark Thomas & Associates, and the geotechnical engineering consultant, Crawford & Associates, analyzed alternatives and redesigned the project to provide a stable slope.

Accordingly, Public Works recommends that the Board approve, and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute, the attached Contract Change Order Number 7 for the total amount of Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$528,296.50).

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Humboldt County Road Fund (1200-321); Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expenditures (1200-321)	FY24-25
Budgeted Expenses	\$528,296.50
Total Expenditures	\$528,296.50
Funding Sources (1200-321)	FY24-25
Federal Funds (FHWA)	\$467,700.89
Road Fund (1200-321)	\$60,595.61
Total Funding Sources	\$528,296.50

Storm Damage Repair to Alderpoint Road (F6B165) Post Mile 7.58 is funded by Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief funds (88.53%) and the Humboldt County Road Fund (11.47%). Expenditure appropriations relating to completion of Storm Damage Repair to Alderpoint Road (F6B165) Post Mile 7.58 are included in the approved fiscal year 2024-2025 budget for budget unit 1200-321.

Projects are paid in arrears with anticipated funding coming from the Federal Highway Administration as mentioned above. The fiscal year 2022-2023 Annual Road Report, completed by the State of California, reflected an estimated negative fund balance of Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000.00) in the Humboldt County Road Fund. Even after allocating nearly Six Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$6,800,000.00) of American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Road Fund in order to reduce the negative fund balance, the current estimated fund balance remains negative by approximately Fifteen Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$15,800,000.00).

This negative balance is partially due to the timing of Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements, which can take years for the County of Humboldt to receive. The current total of outstanding repayments is approximately Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500,000.00). Public Works utilizes other state and local funding, such as Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, for the Humboldt County Road Fund match for reimbursable projects. Despite those additional funding sources, Road Fund projects are underfunded and will very likely have a negative impact on the General Fund if additional revenue sources are not secured.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The recommended actions will not impact current staffing levels.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

California Department of Transportation; Federal Highway Administration

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board may choose not to approve Contract Change Order Number 7. However, this alternative is not recommended because the extra work is required to complete the project and restore the roadway to pre-disaster conditions using funds that would not otherwise be available to the County of Humboldt.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Contract Change Order Number 7

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Meeting of: 3/7/23; 5/16/23
File No.: 23-179; 23-561