



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: May 21, 2015
Board Meeting Date: June 2, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: 4/5ths

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works
Subject: Emergency Declaration for the Emerald Lake Heights Sewer Maintenance District - 1600 Cordilleras Road

RECOMMENDATION:

Acting as the Governing Board of the Emerald Lake Heights Sewer Maintenance District, adopt a resolution finding, with regard to that portion of the Emerald Lake Heights Sewer Maintenance District sewer pipe system:

- A) That an emergency exists; and
- B) Emergency repair work is necessary to respond to the emergency that will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids, adopting plans, specifications, strain sheets, or working details, or giving notice for bids to let contracts; and
- C) Authorizing the Director of Public Works to proceed with repairs without adopting plans and specifications and to enter into contracts up to \$150,000 to address the emergency.

BACKGROUND:

An existing 6 inch vitrified clay sewer pipe installed within 3 feet of a 60 foot wide Hetch Hetchy right of way under a permit from the San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) in 1959 requires an immediate emergency repair.

During the District's recent routine preventative maintenance activities, a segment of District-maintained pipe was discovered to be damaged. The repair was initially thought to be relatively straightforward and considered a spot repair. However, upon further investigation including excavating by hand to uncover the pipe, it was determined that the pipe was not only damaged, but that a void above and below the sewer pipe existed making the repair more extensive and complicated in nature. The District's sewer pipe is approximately 10 feet below the ground surface and it appears that a void above and below the pipe contributed to the pipe damage and failure.

.

.

.

DISCUSSION:

The County Ordinance Code Section 2.55.030 states the following:

“In cases of great emergency, as determined by the Board of Supervisors, including, but not limited to, states of emergency defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code, when repair or replacements are necessary to permit the continued conduct of the operation or services of the County or to avoid danger to life or property, the Board of Supervisors by majority vote, may proceed at once to replace or repair any public facility without adopting plans, specifications, strain sheets, or working details, or giving notice for bids to let contracts. The work may be done by day labor under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, by contract, or by a combination of the two. The County Manager shall have the power to declare a public emergency subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors, by a four-fifths vote, at its next meeting.”

The County Manager exercised the powers stated above on May 21, 2015 to declare a public emergency subject to the Board’s confirmation at their next meeting. This action allowed staff to commence the repairs immediately, and because the sewer pipe is within the SFPUC right of way, this has assisted with the District’s coordination with SFPUC.

Department staff has replaced the damaged segment of sewer pipe and utilized contract services, as needed, to complete the repair as quickly as possible. Because the sewer pipe is within the SFPUC right of way, the repair required a coordinated effort with and approvals from the SFPUC. The District will monitor the pipe and repaired section of pipe with a frequency to be determined to ensure that additional pipe movement or damage does not occur.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this action will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by allowing the emergency repair work to proceed in an expeditious manner such that the sewer system can function as intended.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with the sewer repair work will be financed by the District.

There is no impact on the General Fund.