



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Public Works



**Date:** May 13, 2013  
**Board Meeting Date:** June 18, 2013  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

**Subject:** Authorization of Work by County Construction Crews

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works acting as the County Road Commissioner to perform site grading work in La Honda using County construction crews.

**BACKGROUND:**

Assembly Bill 720 (AB720) sets forth modified requirements by which new road construction and road reconstruction can be performed by employees of a public agency. Under AB720, which became effective January 1, 2013, an agency may elect, through Road Commissioner Authority, as defined in Section 20395 of the Public Contract Code, to utilize public employees to perform force account work, provided that this work does not exceed 30% of the total value of all work performed by force account other than maintenance, as reported in the State Controller's Streets and Roads Annual report. The intent to use this authority must be declared prior to commencing the work.

**DISCUSSION:**

Scenic Drive in La Honda was closed to vehicular traffic following a landslide in 2005. The surrounding slopes have since been stabilized and the Department of Public Works intends on reconstructing Scenic Drive in La Honda, in late Summer or in the Fall this calendar year, provided that permits can be acquired in a time frame that will allow the work to proceed before the 2013/14 rainy season.

For the reconstruction of the road, it is necessary to perform general site grading to accommodate future site drainage designs. This work can be efficiently and cost effectively completed using our crews in lieu of a traditional process involving the preparation of plans and specifications, bidding and inspection of the work.

Utilizing Road Commissioner authority for the performance of site grading work in La Honda with County construction crews contributes to the 2025 Shared Vision outcome of a Livable Community by ensuring that the work is performed expeditiously and cost effectively.

County Counsel reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

General site grading in La Honda utilizing County crews is estimated to cost up to, but not exceed, \$100,000.

The work will be preliminarily funded by the Road Fund, with eventual reimbursement through the La Honda Assessment District, which was created for the purposes of funding site stabilization and the reconstruction of Scenic Drive.

The County owns 10 of the 494 properties within the Assessment District and is subject to adjustments in assessment (ranging from \$523.55 to \$1,047.08 annually per parcel) once the project has been completed and final costs have been determined.