



Agenda Item No. (3)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 19, 2022

From: John R. Eberle, Deputy District Engineer
Ewa Z. Bauer-Furbush, District Engineer
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO AWARD OF CONTRACT NO. 2022-B-043, ALUMINUM CLIP FABRICATION FOR SUSPENSION BRIDGE SOUND REDUCTION PROJECT, TO RUSHCO ENERGY SPECIALISTS**

RECOMMENDATION

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the following actions relative to Contract No. 2022-B-043, *Aluminum Clip Fabrication for Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project*, as follows:

1. Approve award of Contract No. 2022-B-043, to RushCo Energy Specialists of Fort Worth, TX, in the amount of \$488,862.81; and,
2. Establish a contingency for Contract No. 2022-B-043 in the amount of \$48,886 equal to 10% of the contract award amount,

with the understanding that sufficient funds are available in the Bridge Division Operating Budget to finance these actions.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its May 20, 2022, meeting for appropriate action.

SUMMARY

As part of on-going Contract No. 2016-B-01, *Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System and Wind Retrofit Projects*, the construction contractor has installed wind retrofit elements on the west side of the Suspension Bridge main span. The wind retrofit consists of a replacement of the original west bridge railing having wide pickets with a new railing having thin pickets and installation of a wind fairing on the outside of the Bridge truss at the sidewalk level.

As the wind retrofit installation progressed, the Bridge began emanating wind-induced sounds during certain high-velocity wind events. On June 5, 2020, during a period of high westerly winds, wind-induced sounds coming from the Golden Gate Bridge were heard at long distances from the Bridge.

As was previously reported to this Committee, in October/November 2020 and June 2021, wind tunnel tests commissioned by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) were performed on a full-scale new bridge railing specimen. Based on the test results, it was determined that installing 1/16" thick tapered U-shape aluminum clips with alternating orientation of the clips and with 1/16" thick vibration rubber damping material inserts on both edges of each picket of the new west sidewalk bridge railing for the full length of the main span of the Suspension Bridge is the most effective measure to reduce the sound.

On December 17, 2021, the Board of Directors, by Resolution No. 2021-093 approved the following actions relative to reducing wind induced sound emanated by the Golden Gate Suspension Bridge west railing:

1. Approve an installation of 1/16-inch thick tapered U-shape aluminum clips with 1/16-inch thick vibration damping material inserts on both edges of the pickets of the new western bridge railing for the full length of the main span of the Suspension Bridge as described in this staff report;
2. Approve an addition of a Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project in the FY 2021/22 Bridge Division Operating Budget with the estimated cost of \$450,000; and,
3. Authorize the filing of a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project.

The District developed Contract No. 2022-B-043, *Aluminum Clip Fabrication for Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project*, for the fabrication and delivery of the aluminum clips, which involves, in general, the following work:

- Constructing a die to extrude the aluminum clips;
- Furnishing aluminum and paint materials;
- Providing color samples and adjusting paint to match existing bridge railing color;
- Fabricating and coating 25 preproduction clips;
- Fabricating and coating 26,000 production clips; and,
- Shipping completed clips to the District's Toll Plaza.

On December 20, 2021, the District filed a Notice of Exemption under CEQA in both San Francisco and Marin Counties.

On March 15, 2022, the bid solicitation documents were posted to Bonfire, the District's public procurement portal. In addition, the solicitation was advertised several times in the San Francisco Chronicle starting March 19, 2022. A courtesy message notifying disadvantaged and small businesses was sent to approximately 118 email addresses. Fifteen firms downloaded the solicitation documents from the District's procurement portal. By the specified bid opening date of April 6, 2022, no bids were received. On April 7, 2022, the solicitation was re-advertised and was again advertised two more times in the San Francisco Chronicle. Staff reached out to firms that had previously downloaded the solicitation documents or that had expressed an interest in the project to inform them of the new solicitation opportunity. Twelve firms downloaded the solicitations documents. On the bid opening date of April 26, 2022, the following one bid was received, opened and publicly read:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>TOTAL BID PRICE</u>
1. RushCo Energy Specialists Fort Worth, TX	\$488,862.81

The Procurement and Engineering staff, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Administrator and Attorney evaluated the bid proposal for completeness and conformance with the bid solicitation requirements and determined that RushCo Energy Specialists complied with the requirements.

Engineering staff performed a cost analysis of the bid proposal submitted by RushCo Energy Specialists, comparing the pricing to staff's estimate (adjusted for the last six months aluminum price increases of about 20%) and has determined that RushCo Energy's pricing for the work is fair and reasonable. Engineering staff also reached out to a number of firms that did not submit a bid and determined that various business reasons accounted for the lack of bid submissions, such as being too busy, or not interested because of not large enough quantity, or not familiar with submitting a bid in the format required by the District. None of the reasons were related to the specifications being too restrictive or limiting competition.

No contract-specific DBE or Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goal was established for this contract. However, bidders were required to submit documentation to encourage the use of DBEs and SBEs. The DBE Program Administrator has determined that RushCo Energy Specialists is not certified as DBE or SEB, but has selected one out-of-state DBE firm to perform work under the contract. The DBE firm is eligible for interstate DBE certification in the State of California. Approximately 82% DBE participation may be anticipated during the performance of this contract.

Engineering staff and Attorney determined that RushCo Energy Specialists, with a bid price of \$488,862.81, is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and recommends award of Contract 2022-B-043 to RushCo Energy Specialists.

It is recommended that a contingency in an amount of \$48,886, or 10% of the contract total price, be established for Contract No. 2022-B-043 in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising during fabrication.

FISCAL IMPACT

The *Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project* budget of \$450,000 is included in the FY 21/22 Bridge Division Operating Budget. The price of Contract No. 2022-B-043, *Aluminum Clip Fabrication for Suspension Bridge Sound Reduction Project* is \$488,862.81 with a proposed contingency of \$48,886, for the total estimated procurement cost of \$537,749.09. It is anticipated that the majority of the expenses will be spent during the next Fiscal Year, FY 22/23. Sufficient funds are available in the current FY 21/22 Bridge Division Operating Budget to cover the initial procurement expenditures in May and June of 2022. The procurement expenses expended in FY 22/23 will be budgeted accordingly in the Bridge Division Operating Budget.

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