

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 19, 2023

CATEGORY: Consent Calendar {{item.number}}

SUBJECT: Find the “Big Bend Road Slide Repair Project,” Contract No. 706748 categorically exempt in conformance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities, approve a contract with Shasta Cascade Timberlands, LLC, for right-of-way and a temporary construction easement, and accept an Easement Deed conveying the right-of-way parcel.

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #: District 3

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Troy Bartolomei, Interim Director of Public Works, (530) 225-5661

STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY: Troy Bartolomei, Interim Director of Public Works

<u>Vote Required?</u> Simple Majority Vote	<u>General Fund Impact?</u> No General Fund Impact
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RECOMMENDATION

Find the “Big Bend Road Slide Repair Project,” Contract No. 706748 categorically exempt in conformance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing Facilities, approve a contract with Shasta Cascade Timberlands, LLC, for right-of-way (1.51 acres for \$1,700) and a temporary construction easement (0.45-acres for \$500) plus a signing incentive of \$1,500, and accept an Easement Deed conveying the right-of-way parcel.

DISCUSSION

During the disaster-declared winter storms of January and February 2017, a portion of Big Bend Road failed when the underlying hillside slid away. County crews made sufficient repairs to allow a single lane of traffic to pass through the slide area. These repairs are still in place. Pursuit of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded permanent repairs is ongoing. The project is currently pending acquisition of two right-of-way parcels and two temporary construction access easements. An agreement for right-of-way and temporary construction access has been reached with one of the property owners, Shasta Cascade Timberlands, LLC. Staff is currently working with the second property owner, the State of California, to obtain the remaining necessary right-of-way for the Project. When conducting right-of-way acquisitions, it is not uncommon to offer a financial signing incentive. This encourages property owners to complete right-of-way activities in a timely manner. Shasta Cascade Timberlands signed within the requisite sixty days of accepting the first written offer. Staff recommends executing the right-of-way contract to acquire the necessary right-of-way and temporary construction access easement. Projects involving minor alterations to existing highways, including restoration of damage, are categorically exempt from CEQA.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board may decline to make the CEQA finding and acquire the right-of-way. These steps are necessary to fully restore the road. While stable, the current repairs are of a temporary nature and could be susceptible to further damage in storms of the magnitude experienced in 2017. Federal funds are currently available for the Project. These funds can only be used for this purpose and will expire if the Project does not progress. Declining any part of the proposed action will prevent the Department from moving forward with the Project.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

County Counsel has approved the contract as to form. Risk Management has approved the contract. The recommendation has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total Project cost estimate is \$2,600,000. Sufficient appropriations for all costs are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Roads Budget. FHWA disaster repair funds will cover 88.53% of Project costs, including right-of-way acquisitions and signing incentives. Gas tax will cover the remaining 11.47%.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1: Right of Way Contract
- 2: Easement Deed