



**RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY  
District Four

MIKE ENNIS  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** October 9, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel Sign-Off	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez    PHONE: (559) 624-7010				

**SUBJECT:** Award Contract for Construction of Bear Creek Road over Rancheria Creek Bridge Project

- REQUEST(S):**
- That the Board of Supervisors:
1. Approve and award the contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Agee Construction Corporation, of Clovis, California, in the amount of \$1,805,832 for construction of the Bear Creek Road over Rancheria Creek Bridge Project; and
  2. Authorize the Chairman to sign the contract after review and approval as to form by County Counsel and upon receipt of certificates of insurance, bonds and evidence that the contractor possesses a valid State Contractors License; and
  3. Allow funds for contingencies in the amount of \$102,791 to cover unexpected construction conditions; and
  4. Authorize the Director of the Resource Management Agency or his designee to approve change orders up to the amount of \$102,791.

**SUMMARY:**

The County, in cooperation with Caltrans, is proposing to replace the existing Bear Creek Road (M220) Bridge with a new clear-span post-tensioned voided concrete flat slab bridge over Rancheria Creek. The project is located approximately 3.5 miles east of Balch Park Road, northeast of the community of Springville. The existing structure was constructed in 1954, and qualifies to receive federal funding for replacement

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because the existing single lane bridge is fracture critical and too narrow, thus not meeting current standards for bridge width.

The existing bridge will be replaced with an approximately 72-foot long by 30-foot wide, two lane bridge on an alignment located about 12 feet north of the existing bridge alignment. The new structure, designed to meet current engineering standards, will include two 10-ft lanes with 3-ft shoulders. To accommodate the slight shift in roadway alignment, Bear Creek Road will be repaved approximately 150 feet to the west and 210 feet to the east of the bridge limits. The replacement bridge will be assembled in multiple stages to eliminate the need for a lengthy detour and limit impacts to local residents and businesses.

Construction is anticipated to begin in November of 2018, and should take approximately 9 months to complete all work.

The project was approved for advertisement by the Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 2018-0673) on August 14, 2018. Bids were opened on September 19, 2018 and a total of two (2) bids were received. The following summarizes the bids received:

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Bid</b>
Agee Construction Corporation	\$ 1,805,832.00
American Paving Company	\$ 2,194,111.00
<b>Engineer's Estimate</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,826.00</b>

It is our understanding that several contractors who normally prepare a bid for these types of projects, did not submit a bid due to the remote location of the Project, high number of working days, and recent shortage of labor.

The lowest bid of \$1,805,832 was submitted by Agee Construction Corporation of Clovis, CA. This bid is approximately \$658,000 (57% percent) higher than the Engineer's Estimate. It should be noted however that the Engineer's Estimate was listed as \$1,147,826 to match the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) programmed amount. Prior to project advertisement, staff informed Caltrans of an expected cost increase; however, Caltrans recommended leaving the programmed amount at \$1,147,826 and adjusting the programmed construction allocation upon receiving bids. Staff is currently working with Caltrans to adjust the programmed amount to reflect the higher than expected low bid and we anticipate that all cost increases will be fully reimbursed by the HBP.

Upon conducting a bid analysis, large variances in the unit price were noted for a few bid items including cast-in-drilled-hole concrete piling, structural concrete, prestressing cast-in-place concrete and barrier rail concrete. These variances in the estimates can be attributed to the aforementioned remote location, high number of working days and shortage of labor. Additionally, new California requirements for

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prevailing wage rates have increased unit prices for concrete and the cost for steel (bar reinforcement) has spiked significantly. During a recent HBP training, Caltrans programming managers explained they had witnessed a rise in construction costs throughout the state. Thus, they were aware that local assistance projects either out to bid or nearly ready for advertisement, would likely require additional programmed construction funds.

Even though the bid received by Agee Construction is higher than the Engineer's Estimate, Resource Management Agency (RMA) staff believes it would be in the County's best interest to proceed with the award of the contract. Rebidding the project will incur additional cost for staff time and advertisement, reducing the cost effectiveness of the Project. Furthermore, rebidding the project does not guarantee that additional bids will be received nor does it guarantee that additional bids will come in closer to the Engineer's Estimate.

Due to lack of available HBP construction funds, combined with the need to start this project as soon as possible and minimize multi-year construction season impacts to residents and tourists, the County will be using the Advance Construction (AC) funding mechanism. AC is one of the programming tools established by the HBP to allow local agencies to expedite project construction in advance of federal funding appropriations. Although AC funding guidelines require that Tulare County may need to front all construction costs prior to federal funding appropriation, staff anticipates receiving funds around November 2018. Once the funds are available the County may begin seeking federal reimbursement, therefore County Road Fund accruals will be limited. It should be noted that AC procedures have been successfully used on previous bridge projects (M319 South Fork Kaweah River and Road 182 Deep Creek).

It is RMA staff's recommendation that the Board award the contract to Agee Construction Corp., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Agee Construction Corp. has satisfactorily performed similar projects for Tulare County, where they demonstrated that they (1) have adequate financial resources to perform the contract, (2) are able to comply with the associated legal or regulatory requirements, (3) are able to deliver according to the contract schedule, (4) have a history of satisfactory performance, (5) have a good reputation regarding integrity, (6) have or can obtain necessary data, equipment, and facilities, and (7) is otherwise eligible and qualified to receive award.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

There will be No Net County Cost.

The project construction costs will be \$2,206,585; comprising of \$1,805,832 for construction, \$102,791 for contingencies and \$297,962 for construction engineering.

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County Road Funds will be used to fund the construction and construction engineering phase of the project, which are anticipated to be fully reimbursed by Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

**Safety and Security** – This project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the motorists using this facility.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**



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Reed Schenke, P.E.  
Director

RS:jv

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s): Attachment A – Vicinity Map



# **Attachment A**

## Vicinity Map

