



**Resource Management
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three
EDDIE VALERO
District Four
DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: January 14, 2020

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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010				

SUBJECT: Reject Bids Received and Authorize Re-Bid of the M348 over South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Project

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Reject all bids received on December 19, 2019, for the M348 over South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Project; and
2. Approve the re-advertisement for bids for the M348 over South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Project.

SUMMARY:
The County, in cooperation with Caltrans, proposes to replace the existing functionally obsolete (narrow) and fracture critical bridge on Mountain Road 348 (M348) over the South Fork Kaweah River. The project is located approximately 10 miles southeast of the community of Three Rivers. The existing structure (constructed in 1952) will be replaced with a wider one-lane, clear-span, steel girder bridge with precast or cast-in-place concrete deck panels. Also located approximately 0.42 miles from Sequoia National Park, this bridge primarily serves recreational and forestry vehicles traveling to South Fork Campground at the terminus of South Fork Drive.

The existing bridge will be replaced with an approximately 94-foot long by 18.5-foot wide, one-lane bridge. Due to the lack of an available detour and to accommodate traffic during construction, the new bridge will be located about 30 feet north of the existing bridge alignment. M348 will be realigned approximately 200 feet west and 180 feet east of the bridge limits to account for the slight shift in bridge alignment. The

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new structure, designed to meet current engineering standards, will accommodate one 15-ft lane.

The project was approved for advertisement by the Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 2019-0987) on November 19, 2019. Bids were opened on December 19, 2019 with only one (1) bid received. The following summarizes the bids received:

Contractor	Bid
Granite Construction	\$ 4,204,248.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 2,111,831.21

It is staff's understanding that several contractors who would normally prepare a bid for this type of project, did not submit a bid due to a recent shortage of labor, a lack of subcontractor interest, and the remote location of the Project resulting in uncertain anticipated project costs.

The lowest bid of \$4,204,248 was submitted by Granite Construction of Fresno, CA. This bid is approximately \$2,092,417 higher than the Engineer's Estimate.

Upon conducting a bid analysis, large variances in the unit price were noted for several bid items including temporary water diversion systems, cast-in-drilled-hole concrete piling, structural shotcrete, furnish and erect prefabricated steel girder bridge, bridge removal, and mobilization. These variances in the estimates can be attributed to the aforementioned shortage of labor and lack of subcontractor interest in the project, remote location, high number of working days, limited access along a long, windy County dirt road, and staging/project work area limitations. Several contractors who did not submit a bid also indicated they had a difficult time collecting quotes from subcontractors due to the timing of the bid opening.

Although construction costs throughout the state have steadily risen over the last few years and higher than anticipated costs can be expected for most projects, Resource Management Agency (RMA) staff believes it would be in the County's best interest to re-bid the Project due to the extremely high bid amount. Since only one (1) bid was submitted, staff anticipates that re-advertising and re-bidding the Project will result in additional bids being received, resulting in greater competition and bids that are closer to the Engineer's Estimate.

According to Chapter 15 "Advertise and Award Project" of the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual, a local agency may reject all bids when the lowest bid exceeds the engineer's estimate by an unreasonable amount or where competition is considered to be poor for the size, type, and location of the project. Staff contacted Caltrans Local Assistance to inform them of the issue and Caltrans concurs with staff's recommendation to re-bid the project. Caltrans also assured staff that re-bidding the project would not jeopardize any funding for this or any other federally funded bridge projects.

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The bid documents indicate that the County reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals and the County's decision or treatment regarding a bid will be final. Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors use their discretionary authority to reject all bids and re-bid the project.

Should the project be re-bid, contract award is anticipated in April. Assuming the project is not delayed due to the presence of nesting birds or other seasonal plant/animal species of concern, construction is anticipated to begin by summer of 2020, and should take approximately nine (9) months to complete all work. If pre-construction biological surveys identify any species of concern that cannot be avoided or mitigated for during construction, construction would be put on hold until fall of 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is No Net County Cost to the General Fund.

The current funding allocation (including construction, contingencies and construction engineering) for this project is \$2,750,000 from the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP). If the project is re-bid and the current fund allocation is not adequate to cover the low bid amount, County staff will work with Caltrans Local Assistance engineers to secure the additional funds needed to cover all project costs.

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 HBP funds.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

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:



Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Attachment A – Vicinity Map

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF REJECT BIDS) Resolution No. _____
RECEIVED AND AUTHORIZE RE-BID OF)
THE M348 OVER SOUTH FORK KAWEAH)
RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2020,
BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

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1. Rejected all bids received on December 19, 2019, for the M348 over South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Project; and
2. Approved the re-advertisement for bids for the M348 over South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Project.

Attachment A

Vicinity Map

