



ROSS VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

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Ross Valley Sanitary District Board Approves Emergency Plan To Complete Capital Project Along Corte Madera Creek

Existing Project Contractor to Complete Construction As Soon As Possible

Ross Valley, May 24, 2011. The Board of Directors of the Ross Valley Sanitary District unanimously agreed in its May 18th meeting to move forward as soon as possible with the emergency completion of its Kentfield Force Main capital improvement project.

The District asked its board to approve the emergency work along Corte Madera Creek and on South Eliseo Drive in Greenbrae in order to help insure that the project can be completed before the next rainy season and to address a potential problem associated with the December 2010 emergency repair work.

The board passed a resolution that provides the existing construction contractor Maggiora and Ghilotti Incorporated with a change order to complete the entire project. Due to the emergency work last year that accelerated the project into its next construction phase, the original two-part construction plan was consolidated into a single project. Considering the project consolidation and near impossibility of completing a new bidding process in time for this year's emergency construction plan, it is both practical and prudent for the winning low bidder of phase one, Maggiora and Ghilotti, to continue to perform all work on the project.

The District was seriously impacted last year by the project's short construction period, which helps to protect the endangered California Clapper Rail that nests along Corte Madera Creek, and a serious development on the project. Last fall, with Segment One of the force main project nearly completed (the first phase of the project), the section of pipe scheduled for replacement the following year began to fail.

The District declared an emergency on December 6, 2010 in order to address the failing pipe immediately and asked Maggiora and Ghilotti to begin emergency work on the second phase of the project where the failures occurred. The contractor stabilized the pipeline and completed half of the project's next phase before needing to stop work for the winter rainy season, which began prior to the February 1st moratorium on construction through the Clapper Rail nesting season.

The need to move forward with completion of the pipe repair as soon as possible was further underscored recently as the District discovered that an air gap between the old force main pipe and new HDPE replacement pipe, that will be filled in as the project is completed, may be beginning to cave in. This could cause ground settling along Eliseo Drive and in the berm running along Corte Madera Creek. Addressing this problem now will head off the potential for damage to the road and pipeline that could ultimately cause a new sewer spill, and pose a threat to public health and safety.

The emergency completion of the project is estimated to cost up to \$2.5 million. However it is important to note that this cost is not an addition to the overall \$9 million that was budgeted for the project during fiscal years 2010-11 and 2011-12. In fact, despite significant challenges, the District reports that overall the project is expected to come in at or under budget at completion.

The Kentfield Force Main project replaces a pressured pipe installed in 1972 running under South Eliseo Drive and inside a berm running along Corte Madera Creek. The old pipe is made of Techite and is being replaced because the pipe material is brittle and prone to failure. The emergency completion of the project includes slip-lining the balance of old Techite pipe with a new and slightly smaller diameter HDPE pipe. Currently, a section of the HPDE pipe that remains to be slip-lined inside the Techite is on top of the berm along Corte Madera Creek. Along with injecting the air space between the new and old pipe with grout, the contractor will install an additional 30-inch pipe under the berm, then repave the path.

The District is working with regulatory agencies to gain approval to begin the project soon and believes work can be easily completed by the end of October, in advance of the normal rainy season.