



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 3/21/2023

File #: 23-317

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Public Works

Agenda Section: Departmental

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Storm Damage Repair to Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached plans and specifications for the Storm Damage Repair to Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 project;
2. Find that the project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15302 and 15269 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to advertise the above-mentioned project as required by Section 22037 of the California Public Contract Code, with bids to be opened on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Road Fund (1200), Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Storm Damage Funds

DISCUSSION:

On Feb. 21, 2019, the Governor of the State of California declared a disaster for Humboldt County due to severe winter storms, flooding, and mudslides. Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 in the Briceland area of southern Humboldt County, experienced roadway settlement and shoulder failure. Emergency temporary repairs were done at the time of the disaster to maintain essential traffic flows.

The 2019 Storm Damage project mentioned herein falls under Categorical Exemption Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302). This exemption applies to projects that are existing facilities and consist of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures on the same site with the same purpose and capacity is appropriate

for existing facilities maintained by the Public Works Department.

Additionally, storm damage projects also fall under the Statutory Exemption for Emergency Projects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15269). This exemption applies to projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

On Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 22, 2022, the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (“Public Works”) received Federal Highway Administration funding approval to proceed with the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project. GHD, Inc. subsequently prepared the attached plans and specifications for the project based on topographic surveys of the damaged areas that was prepared by Points West Surveying Company and geotechnical studies prepared by Crawford and Associates. The work proposed in the attached plans and specifications consists of constructing a soldier pile wall, building a rock buttress, installing sub-drainage and storm drainage systems, installing guardrails, restoring the roadway to the original width and adding sediment and erosion control items.

Accordingly, Public Works recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached plans and specifications; find that the project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 and 15302 of the CEQA Guidelines; and advertise the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expenditures	FY22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 *	FY24-25 *
Engineer’s Cost of Contract Items	\$0.00	\$2,627,770.00	\$0.00
Contingencies (5%)	\$0.00	\$131,000.00	\$0.00
Construction Engineering (15%)	\$15,000.00	\$364,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$15,000.00	\$3,122,770.00	\$15,000.00
Funding Sources	FY22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 *	FY24-25 *
General Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
State/Federal Funds 88.53%	\$13,279.50	\$2,764,588.28	\$13,279.50
Road Fund (1200) 11.47%	\$1,720.50	\$358,181.72	\$1,720.50
Total Funding Sources	\$15,000.00	\$3,122,770.00	\$15,000

**Projected amounts are estimates and are subject to change.*

Narrative Explanation of Financial Impact:

There is no financial commitment until the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project is awarded. This project is being funded by Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Funds (88.53%) and the Humboldt County Road Fund (11.47%). The engineer’s cost estimate for the project is \$2,627,770.00. The Humboldt County Road Fund will be responsible for \$385,181.72 of the costs associated with the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project.

Expenditure appropriations related to completion of the A Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project are included in the approved fiscal year 2022-23 and the proposed 2023-24 and 2024-25 budget for Road-Engineering budget unit 1200-321.

Projects are paid in arrears. The FY 2020-21 Annual Road Report, completed by the State of California, reflected an estimated negative fund balance of \$5.9 million in the county's Road Fund. Even after allocating nearly \$6.8 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Road Fund in order to reduce the negative fund balance, the current estimated fund balance remains negative by approximately \$4 million.

This negative balance is partially due to the timing of Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements to the county, which can take years for the county to receive repayment. The department utilizes other state and local funding, such as Regional Surface Transportation Program funds, for the Humboldt County Road Fund match for reimbursable projects. Despite those additional funding sources, Road Fund projects are underfunded and will very likely have a negative impact on the General Fund if additional revenue sources are not secured.

Due to the negative fund balance, the Auditor-Controller did not provide approval of this item.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no impact to current staffing levels related to the advertisement of the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Project.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework priority of providing for and maintaining infrastructure.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

California Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not approve the project; however, staff does not recommend this alternative since the project will restore the roadway to pre-disaster conditions using funds that would not otherwise be available to the County of Humboldt.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Plans for the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project
2. Special Provisions for the Briceland Thorne Road (F5A010) Post Miles 3.08 and 5.67 Storm Damage Repair Project

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

File #: 23-317

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A