MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone (626) 458-5100
http://dpw.lacounty.gov

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
WATER RESOURCES CORE SERVICE AREA
DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT, ADVERTISE, AND AWARD
PROJECT ID NO. WRDD000033
SAWPIT DEBRIS DAM SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROJECT
IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)
(3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Public Works is seeking Board approval to carry out the accelerated delivery of the Sawpit Debris Dam Seismic Strengthening Project, including delegated authority to adopt the plans and specifications, advertise for bids, and award and execute a construction contract in the City of Monrovia.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:

1. Find that the proposed project and related actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.

2. Approve the project and delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to adopt the plans and specifications and advertise for bids at an estimated construction contract cost between $8,500,000 and $12,750,000 for the Sawpit Debris Dam Seismic Strengthening Project.

3. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to advertise for bids in accordance with the Instruction Sheet for Publishing Legal Advertisement with the Notice Inviting Bids when ready to advertise this project.

4. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to determine whether the bid of the apparent responsible contractor with the lowest apparent responsive bid is, in fact, responsive and, if not responsive, to determine which apparent responsible contractor submitted the lowest responsive bid.

5. Delegate authority to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee to award and execute a construction contract for the Sawpit Debris Dam Seismic Strengthening Project with the responsible contractor with the lowest responsive bid within or less than the estimated cost range of $8,500,000 and $12,750,000.

6. Delegate to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee the following authority in connection with this contract: (a) extend the date and time for the receipt of bids consistent with the requirements of California Public Contract Code, Section 4104.5; (b) allow substitution of subcontractors and relief of bidders upon demonstration of the grounds set forth in California Public Contract Code, Sections 4100 et seq. and 5100 et seq., respectively; (c) approve and execute change orders within the same monetary limits delegated to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District or his designee under California Public Contract Code, Section 20998; (d) accept the project upon its final completion; and (e) make required findings and release retention money withheld consistent with the requirements of California Public Contract Code, Sections 7107 and 9203.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to find that the project and related actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allow Public Works to implement the Sawpit Debris Dam Seismic Strengthening Project, including reconstructing the outlet tower, constructing an inclined outlet pipe, strengthening spillway walls, repairing the downstream embankment, improving the subdrain system, upgrading the shelter house restroom, reconstructing existing access roads and constructing new access roads, and constructing site drainage and erosion protection measures at Sawpit Debris Dam, a Los Angeles County Flood Control District facility located in the City of Monrovia (see Enclosure).

The Sawpit Debris Dam is an earth embankment dam constructed in 1955. Some components of the facility, including the spillway and outlet tower, do not meet current dam safety seismic standards, resulting in the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams imposing restrictions. The project will rehabilitate the debris dam to mitigate seismic deficiencies, meet California Department of Water Resources' dam safety standards, and improve operational reliability. This will increase flood protection for the benefit of downstream communities.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, Focus Area Goal F, Flexible and Efficient Infrastructure, Strategy ii, Modernize Infrastructure, by replacing and improving public infrastructure assets that support the quality of life of Los Angeles County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated construction contract cost to complete this proposed project is in the range of $8,500,000 and $12,750,000. The total project cost is estimated to be $14,500,000. In addition to the construction contract cost, the total project cost includes the preparation of plans and specifications, construction engineering, inspection, contract administration, change order contingency, environmental compliance, and other County services.

Funding for the first year of this project, estimated at $5,500,000, is available in the Flood Control District Fund (B07 – Capital Assets - Infrastructure) Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget. Funding for future years will be requested through the annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

California Public Contract Code, Section 20995, allows the Board to delegate approval of plans and specifications to the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, on a project-by-project basis. Once plans are approved, the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District will instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to advertise the project for bids in accordance with Section 20991 of the California Public Contract Code.

The contract award will comply with applicable Federal and State requirements and Board policies and mandates. The contract documents will require the contractor to comply with these same requirements, policies, and mandates. The construction contract will be in the form previously reviewed and approved by County Counsel.

As required by Board Policy No. 5.140, information such as defaulted contracts with the County complaints filed with the Contractors State License Board, labor violations, and debarment actions will be considered before a contract is awarded.

Documents related to the award of this contract will be available at Public Works' Project Management Division III, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 8th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803.

In accordance with Board Policy 5.270, Countywide Local and Targeted Worker Hiring, the project will require that at least 30 percent of the California construction labor hours be performed by qualified Local Residents and at least 10 percent be performed by Targeted Workers facing employment barriers. The project will also include a jobs coordinator who will facilitate the implementation of the targeted hiring requirement of the policy.

Effective June 7, 2023, Countywide Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) applies to projects with an estimated construction contract value of $5,000,000 or greater. Therefore, CWA will apply to this project. The contractor and all subcontractors must comply with all terms and conditions of the Countywide CWA which, among other things, increases work opportunities for those seeking to start a new career in the construction industry and promotes the hiring of underrepresented individuals on the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed project is exempt from CEQA. The project, to rehabilitate the existing Sawpit Debris Dam, is within a class of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (a), (b), (d), and (m) and 15302 (c) of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 1 (c), (d), (e), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), and (w) and Class 2 (a), (b), (c), and (e) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. Additionally, the project is not located in a sensitive environment and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the record of the proposed activities.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the Register Recorder/County Clerk and with the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation in accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 21152, and will post the notice to the County's website in accordance with Section 21092.2.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

To increase contractor awareness of Public Works' program to contract work out to the private sector, this project will be listed on both the County's "Doing Business with LA County" and "Do Business with Public Works" websites for open bids:

https://lacounty.gov/business/doing-business-with-la-county/

https://pw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities

Additionally, the contract solicitation will be advertised through web-based and social media platforms.

In order to increase opportunities for small businesses, Public Works will be offering preference to Local Small Business Enterprises in compliance with Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.204.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

When the project is completed, it will have a positive impact by increasing flood protection to communities downstream of Sawpit Debris Dam.

It is anticipated that the construction work will start in May 2027 and be completed in May 2028.

Public Works has been gathering stakeholder input and will provide updates throughout the project development. No community concerns are expected.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to Public Works, Project Management Division III.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director

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Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Christine Frias, Cynthia Zapata)
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services (Countywide Contract Compliance)

ENCLOSURE

SAWPIT DEBRIS DAM SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROJECT
PROJECT ID NO. WRDD000033

