

JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Santa Cruz 571

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA: JUNE 22, 1999

June 16, 1999

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT FOR THE GRAHAM HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT

Members of the Board:

As reported to your Board last week, earlier this month the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approved the funding necessary to allow the County to improve that portion of Graham Hill Road between Roaring Camp and the existing climbing lane. The Department of Public Works now requests your Board's authorization to submit our request for proposals (RFP) for the initial environmental assessment for the subject project. Working with the Planning Department's Environmental Coordinator, we anticipate the selection of a firm by the middle of July in order to have their contract proposal before your Board on August 3, 1999.

The project schedule calls for the improvements to be constructed by the end of calendar year 2001. According to state and federal guidelines, the first step the County must undertake is to proceed with the initial preparation of the initial environmental assessment of the proposed project, which will eventually lead to determining if an Environmental Impact Report is necessary or what specific mitigation measures are required to allow for the construction of these critical road safety improvements.


Based upon consultations with the Planning Department, the following three environmental firms have been identified as being best qualified to perform the work necessary for this evaluation and assessment:

Brady/LSA of Berkeley, California
E.I.P. of San Francisco, California
Jones & Stokes Associates of Sacramento, California

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Approve the attached **RFP** for submittal to the three firms identified above.
2. Direct Public Works to return to the Board on August 3, 1999, for authorization to execute a contract with the selected **firm** for the preparation of the initial environmental assessment for the Graham Hill Road Improvement Project.

Yours truly,


JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

WBW:mg

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works
 Debbie Hale, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
 Ken Hart, County Planning

DRAFT

GRAHAM HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ROARING CAMP ROAD TO EXISTING SLOW TRAFFIC LANE

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General Proposal Requirements & Scope of Work for Preparation of Initial Study/Environmental Assessment

A. Description of Project

Graham Hill Road is a principal two lane arterial that runs in a north-south direction approximately 5.9 miles between the City of Santa Cruz and the town of Felton in the San Lorenzo Valley.

The proposed project limits extend from Roaring Camp Road near Conference Drive to approximately 0.64 miles south to the existing climbing lane. The road improvements will basically follow the existing road with some alignment changes to the road profile.

The improvements to be constructed include:

1. Widening of the current pavement to include a new 1,300 foot two-way left turn lane from the entrance at Roaring Camp Road to Summit Avenue.
2. Two six foot wide shoulder/bike lanes for the full length of the project (0.64 miles).
3. Realignment of approximately 3,000 feet of road to increase the general width of the current road.
4. Approximately 2,000 feet of 48" diameter storm drain pipe system and appurtenances.

B. General Requirements

Timing: The consultant should plan on producing an administrative draft Initial Survey/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) (5 copies) no later than 25 weeks after contract approval. Any necessary revisions to the administrative draft should be completed within three weeks of receipt of the County's comments on the document and submitted to the County as a screen review copy of the Draft IS/EA. The complete Draft IS/EA should be published and available for public review within seven days of the County's approval of the screen review copy. At the conclusion of the comment period, the consultant will meet with County staff to discuss the comments and appropriate responses. An Administrative Final IS/EA should be produced within three weeks of this meeting and the screen review copy within two additional weeks of the County comments on the Administrative Final. The completed IS/EA should be printed and released within seven days of the County's approval of the screened review copy.

Planning Analysis: The IS/EA shall utilize this scope of work, the initial studies prepared by County Planning staff and consultants, A more complete discussion of the analysis required in each environmental subject area is provided in the various sections below beginning with item D.

Mitigation Monitoring: The IS/EA must include a mitigation monitoring program consistent with the requirements of CEQA/NEPA. The monitoring program shall be specific and prepared as a part of the final IS/EA and be made to be an independently used document for field verification of adequate implementation mitigation measures and any remedial action necessary to achieve adequate mitigation.

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C. Existing Studies Related to the Project

1. Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance Survey prepared by Ms. Suzanne Smith of the County Planning Department dated November 3, 1998.
2. Riparian Pre-site review prepared by Mr. David Carlson of the County Planning Department dated January 25, 1999.
3. Preliminary Biotic Assessment prepared by Mr. Bill Davilla of Ecosystems West dated January 21, 1999.

D. Specific Scope of Work and Agencies' Regulations to Comply With.

The EIR shall be a comprehensive document addressing all potential areas of impact within the project area.

It shall conform with the requirements of the following agencies and/or regulations:

1. Current CEQA guidelines
2. Current NEPA guidelines
3. U.S. Corps of Engineers Wetlands delineation
4. California Dept. of Forestry Timber Harvest Plan.
5. California Department of Fish & Game

E. Soils, Grading & Geology

The project is located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains in a draw or ravine between two ridges characterized by 15-25% slopes. The terrain is mostly natural undeveloped land and heavily forested. It is estimated that there will be approximately 13,000 cubic yards of earthwork (both cut and fill) involved. Maximum cut slopes are estimated to be approximately 18 feet in height. Sections of the fill slopes will encroach into an adjacent ravine. Areas for stock piling and disposal of excess cut material will also have to be evaluated.

Slope stability, erosion control and disposal of excess earth material will be areas of particular concern on this project. Mitigation measures and possible revisions to the proposed plan line will have to be identified for impacts from the grading operations.

F. Drainage and Riparian Corridor

As stated in (E) above, approximately two thirds of the project alignment is located in a valley between two ridges. The tributary drainage basin in the valley is approximately 160 acres in area. There is a wide defined ravine that is adjacent on the south side of the alignment and extends for the top half of the project length. The ravine narrows down to a **swale** and crosses Graham Hill Road via a culvert just north of Grand View Avenue and then continues adjacent to the road on the north side until it crosses back under Graham Hill Road at Roaring Camp Road, where it empties into Zayante Creek. The Riparian Pre-site Review identified the riparian corridors on either side of the existing road and stated that a riparian exception would be required for the project with possible mitigation measures in the road alignment. The analysis of the drainage/riparian issues will need to be coordinated with the grading and earthwork.

The IS/EA shall evaluate wetland issues, the need for drainage facilities in relation to traffic safety issues on the affected section of road and the impact of water borne pollution carried by the **swale/drainage** pipe on Zayante Creek and downstream water supplies/resources.

G. Biological Resources

It is estimated that approximately 100 to 140 trees will have to be removed/harvested to facilitate the construction of the project. Tree species include predominately coastal redwoods and douglas firs on the south side and oak, **madrone**, bay and buckeye on the north side.

A preliminary biotic assessment was completed by the firm of Ecosystems West. The only possible endangered species identified in that report was the Santa Cruz June beetle in an adjacent area.

The consultant shall consult the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) to determine if there is a potential for impact to any other special status animal or plant species that inhabitats the affected area. A qualified biologist shall conduct on-site investigations to identify any special status species. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts to special status species shall be provided.

H. Noise

The IS/EA shall evaluate the impact on ambient noise levels on the area and adjacent land use facilities from increased noise levels resulting from all modes of **traffic** after the project is complete and during construction activities. The assessment shall be made in relation to Federal, State and County General Plan regulations.

I. Air

The IS/EA shall evaluate possible impacts and violation of air quality standards (dust and emissions) on the surrounding land use facilities during construction activities and from vehicle traffic **after** completion of the project.

J. Cultural/Aesthetic Factors

County Planning made a cursory archeological assessment of the area and came up with negative findings. The consultant shall undertake a more extensive archeological search and also evaluate visual impacts and impacts on existing recreational land use.

K. Traffic

Graham Hill Road is one of three major arterial roads that provides vehicle access to the San Lorenzo Valley; Mount Hermon Road and State Highway 9 being the other two. Two principal traffic studies exist that contain information on Graham Hill Road - the 1994 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan and the 1996 Santa Cruz County Congestion Management Program.

The consultant shall review existing **traffic** documents and data for Graham Hill Road, assess current circulation patterns, movements and volumes and undertake a comprehensive analysis of transportation safety issues and alternate modes of transportation. The consultant shall undertake appropriate supplemental studies, summarize their findings and make recommendations in relation to the proposed project.

In addition, the consultant shall evaluate all principal traffic control issues during the various construction phases of the project, including tree removal and harvesting.

L. Land Use and Housing

The IS/EA shall make an assessment of the existing land use facilities/patterns and evaluate whether there will be any possible changes/impacts resulting from the project on the land use.

M. General Plans and Planning Policy

The IS/EA shall review the project for conformance and potential conflicts with applicable local, State, and Federal land use plans, policies, and laws. The consultant shall address any growth inducing impacts from the project.

N. Project Alternatives

In addition to the recommended project, the consultant shall evaluate and discuss the impacts of the four alternative projects including the "no project" option presented in the County's Project Study Report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

O. Evaluation Criteria

Consultant selection shall be based on evaluation of the consultant's formal proposal. The formal proposal will be evaluated by a panel of engineers. Evaluation criteria used to select the consultant will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Qualifications of the proposed consultant team.
2. Demonstrated understanding of the scope of work.
3. Demonstrated capability to explore and develop innovative or advanced techniques or designs, and alert County to potential design problems and alternative solutions.
4. Past performance in similar projects related to cost control, quality or work, meeting schedules, errors and omissions, and communication.

5. Present workload of the firm, availability of staff for the project, proposed schedule or tasks.
6. Familiarity with CALTRANS and County requirements and procedures for the type of work requested.
7. County's prior experience with consultant.
8. Familiarity with geographical and geophysical area of projects.
9. Familiarity with regulatory agencies' requirements and procedures for the types of work requested.
10. Relevant specialized equipment and resources available to consultant for completion of the project.

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P. Proposal Format

The proposal shall include the following:

1. Project Description - A narrative statement describing the consultant's understanding of the work and the County's needs, based upon the request for proposal, a review of the subject sites and available information.
2. Work Plan and Schedule - A complete description of the services proposed and a schedule of the work.
3. Organizational Chart - An organizational chart and **staffing** plan indicating the line of responsibility of each member of the project team and clearly indicating the project manager, the team member responsible for interfacing with the County and the individual authorized to negotiate the contract.

Q. Contract Agreement

The County intends to award a contract with compensation based on an approved fee schedule, the total of which is not to be exceeded in performing the scope of services required thereby. The consultant should review the Contract Agreement and be aware of the various requirements (copy attached).

R. Compensation

Contract negotiations will include compensation, completion date and staff assignments. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, negotiations will be terminated.

Within a week of notification, the consultant shall submit a schedule of costs for compensation, a project calendar and a breakdown of staff assignments. The schedule of costs shall include an estimated cost for each item and sub-item described in the Scope of Work for each bridge. The schedule of costs shall include the name and title of each individual, the hourly wage of each individual, and the total cost of work done by the individual for the item or sub-item. A schedule of costs shall also be provided for all subconsultants, specialists and services and shall include any overhead charges.

One (1) copy of the proposal shall be submitted to:

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Bill Williamson
County of Santa Cruz
Public Works Department
701 Ocean Street, Room 4 10
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Provide the following note on the mailing label: "Biotic Assessment."

GRHM