



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution awarding a contract for roadwork at Mentryville.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract for roadwork at Mentryville in an amount not to exceed \$244,508 for the Base Bid, Bid Alternate 1, and Bid Alternate 2.

Background: Located at the base of Pico Canyon's chaparral dominated slopes, Mentryville was an 1880's oil boomtown built around its oil well, Pico No. 4. Named for Charles Alexander Mentry, the oil well's tenacious driller—and later superintendent of the company that would become Chevron—Mentryville was home to over 100 families until the early 1930s. Pico No. 4 went on to become the longest continually operating oil well in the world, closing in 1990. Historic buildings still stand including Charles Mentry's grand thirteen-room mansion, a one-room schoolhouse, and a period barn.

Due to the fires of 2003 and the winter storms of 2004-2005, the road is in poor condition. In its current state it is very vulnerable to future floods and mudslides. The roadway must be maintained as it is the main access road into the canyon for the purposes of fire management and other emergencies. The proposed work will repair damage to the roads caused by the floods of 2005, and will be funded by FEMA as per project worksheet #2669. The work must be complete by late May to be eligible for reimbursement by FEMA.

The proposed roadwork project includes the repaving of the park's service road, in the lower areas of the canyon. The work was put out for public bid in February 2011 and nine bids were received (full list is attached). To ensure that the project budget was accommodated, bidders were required to divide the costs into a base bid scope of work and three alternate scopes of work. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the bid amount to allow for contingencies and conditions that may not be evident until work is underway.

Approximately 2.5 miles of roadway paving can be accommodated by the budget, including Base Bid and Bid Alternates 1 and 2. The extent of the area to be repaved includes roadway from the Schoolhouse back to Johnson Park, a parking area at Johnson Park, and roadway from Johnson Park back to the historic oil well monument. Completion of the project will provide reliable access to the Johnson Park area and the historic oil well monument. The road leading to the upper part of the canyon is not included.

MRCA staff has reviewed the bids and found R.C. Becker and Son, Inc. to be the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. R.C. Becker and Son, Inc. have completed work for numerous public agencies including the City of Santa Clarita, Kern County Roads Department, and Santa Clarita Community College District, and have been an established corporation for 51 years. Additionally, they completed a contract in 2008 for MRCA to repave the entrance road to Mentryville. The work was done professionally and efficiently.

Section 3.2(c) of the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures states that all construction and improvement projects in excess of \$25,000 must be approved by the Governing Board.

Consideration: The cost for the Base Bid, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, and contingency is \$244,508 and adequate funds remain in the FEMA grant to cover this cost.