

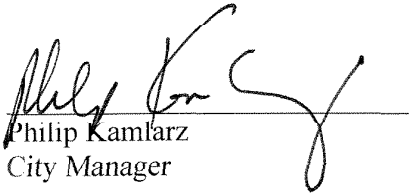
Office of the City Manager

## TO BE DELIVERED AGENDA MATERIAL

**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2004

**Item Number:** 49

**Item Description:** Contract: Emergency Repair of Strawberry Creek Culvert on Allston Way

  
Philip Kamlarz  
City Manager



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

September 21, 2004

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council  
From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager  
Subject: Emergency Repair of Strawberry Creek Culvert on Allston Way

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to award a contract to Condon - Johnson and Associates, Inc. to perform emergency repair work on the failed sections of the Strawberry Creek Culvert generally under Allston Way near Harold Way, for an amount not exceeding \$250,000 for construction services, pursuant to Section 67.4, Emergencies, of Article XI, Public Works and Supplies, of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The amount of \$250,000 is available from the General Fund and the Clean Storm Water Fund reserves to address the emergency repair of the failing culvert. This funding will excavate to the collapsed culvert and make it as safe as possible.

Meanwhile, full reconstruction of the culvert, sidewalk, curb and street will be necessary and will be let out to bid to select a contractor. This full reconstruction is projected to cost up to an estimated \$300,000. This would bring the entire project cost up to an estimated \$550,000. A combination of revenue from the General Fund and Clean Storm Water Fund would be necessary to complete the entire project. Following a bid solicitation process and selection of a bidder, a request for approval of the bidder and the contract amount would be returned to Council for approval prior to proceeding with this final stage of the project.

The General Fund and Clean Storm Water Fund are appropriate funding sources for such creek culvert repair. However, these funds have limited funding and are only being recommended due to the emergency work required to repair the collapsed culvert and surrounding infrastructure.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There is a pavement section about 18-foot long (east-west) by 10-foot wide (north-south) on Allston Way near Harold Way that has subsided and has been steel-plated. The area has been barricaded for pedestrian and traffic safety. The barricades are adversely affecting the normal traffic flow and creating a loss of parking on this busy stretch of Allston Way near Milvia. There

is a concern about further subsidence or collapse occurring, especially after the seasonal rains start.

There is a risk to public safety in the immediate area due to the possibility of further subsidence and collapse in the near future. There is also the possibility that private property could be damaged. This risk is much higher after the seasonal rains begin to occur. The Regional Water Quality Control Board requires all work affecting such watercourses and drainage facilities be completed before October 15 of each year.

### BACKGROUND

This Strawberry Creek concrete arch culvert in this area was built about 80 years ago, and only minimal minor maintenance and repair work has been done since that time. In July 2002, a specialty consultant team surveyed the creek culvert in this and other areas by visual inspection from inside the culvert and by using a video camera. Sections of the culvert were found to be in various stages of degradation due to age. However, no funding was available to address this type of infrastructure repair at the time, and as a result the repair has been deferred.

On March 12, 2004, after the end of the rainy season and immediately after a severe 25-year storm on February 25, 2004, the pavement subsidence on Allston Way near Harold Way was observed. The Public Works Engineering Division commissioned a geotechnical consulting firm to investigate the subsidence and to develop repair recommendations.

The investigation included ten cone penetrometer (CPT) soundings and the review of the City files, data, and a video of the inspection of the culvert interior. The resulting report identified a significant length of voids along the culvert and next to the subsidence within the City's right of way. This is caused by the loss of concrete culvert integrity.

The original westbound creek culvert then turns northward and under the YMCA building. The investigation additionally identified a length of about 30 feet under the YMCA building that has largely lost the culvert bottom and has associated erosion. This failure of the culvert on private property is the responsibility of the property owner, in this case, the YMCA.

At present, the consultant team has finalized the construction plan for the culvert repair in the subject street area. Pending the necessary regulatory permits, the City would perform the emergency repair work to the culvert and provide engineered backfill under Allston Way within the City's right of way before the upcoming rainy season.

Since the contractor will be mobilized by the City to perform the work within the City's right of way, the City has contacted the YMCA that to see if it were interested in employing the services, at its expense, of the City's contractor for its portion under its building. An order of magnitude estimate for the repair work under YMCA building is additional \$60,000. This additional culvert repair work under the YMCA building will be undertaken only if the YMCA agrees in writing to coordinate and authorize the City of Berkeley to do the repair work under their building. The YMCA

This emergency work to be done before October 15, 2004 is the first of two phases to complete these repairs. The current phase will include the replacement of the culvert invert (bottom) and will place engineering fill in the voids below the invert. This will provide the soil stability necessary to endure the winter rains. Subsequently, the City will advertise for competitive bids for the second portion to be done in the spring of 2005. This will consist of replacing and reinforcing the deteriorated portions of the upper structure of the culvert, as well as filling of remaining voids surrounding the upper portions. This will include final repaving of Allston Way.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The culvert repair is urgently necessary for the preservation of life, health, and property. If the deteriorating creek culvert is not repaired before the upcoming rainy season, the subsidence could worsen and may affect other properties adjacent to and above the aging culvert.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Jeffrey Egeberg, Manager of Engineering	981-6406
Lorin Jensen, Supervising Civil Engineer	981-6411

Approved:

  
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Rene Cardinaux, Director of Public Works

RESOLUTION NO.

-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CONDON - JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PERFORM AN EMERGENCY REPAIR WORK PURSUANT TO SECTION 67.4, EMERGENCIES, OF ARTICLE XI, PUBLIC WORKS AND SUPPLIES, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO THE FAILED SECTION OF THE STRAWBERRY CREEK CULVERT GENERALLY UNDER ALLSTON WAY NEAR HAROLD WAY NOT EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the pavement subsidence on Allston Way near Harold Way was identified by the City on March 12, 2004 and the geotechnical investigation determined that the portions of the underlying Strawberry Creek culvert built many years ago had failed and created large voids underneath the street pavement because of the erosion; and

WHEREAS, because this part of Allston Way is heavily traveled because of the main post office, YMCA, regional Social Security office and other businesses; the culvert repair is urgently necessary for the preservation of life, health, and property; and

WHEREAS, the construction documents are prepared for the urgent repair work, pending the permit from the Bay Area Water Quality Control Board, in order to complete it before the upcoming rainy season.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to award a contract to Condon - Johnson & Associates, Inc. to perform Strawberry Creek Culvert emergency repair work to the failed sections generally under Allston Way near Harold Way for the amount not to exceed \$250,000 for construction services pursuant to Section 67.4, Emergencies, of Article XI, Public Works and Supplies, of the Charter of the City of Berkeley.