RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-359

MEETING: August 20, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Peter Rei, Public Works Director

RE: Approve Change No. 2 with Howk Systems for Improvements to Yosemite West Water System

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve Change Order No. 2 with Howk Systems for Improvements to the Yosemite West Water System in the Amount of $18,863 for a Total Compensation of $29,863; Extend the Term of the Contract to June 30, 2014, and Authorize the Public Works Director to Sign the Change Order.

Howk Systems was asked to provide an estimate of the cost to install lightning protection so that the Lowry system will be less vulnerable to lightning damage in the future. The cost of this additional work is $15,000.

Summary:
Original Contract $10,000
Change Order #1 $ 1,000
Change Order #2 $18,863
   Emergency Repairs $ 1,785
   Diagnose Problems $ 2,078
   Lightning Protection $15,000
Total $29,863

On September 19, 2012 the Public Works Director approved a contract with Howk Systems for $10,000 to investigate why the Lowry Air Stripper System at the Yosemite West Water System was not functioning properly. The intention of the contract is to examine the system, make needed repairs, recalibration of the system and improvements to the communication between the SCADA system controller and the Lowry System electronics.

By March 2013 Howk Systems had completed over 90% of the work on the project and was getting ready for final testing and calibration.

On March 30, 2013, the booster station was hit by lightning which damaged a portion of the
electronics included in the system. Public Works staff attempted to repair the damage but was unsuccessful.

In early April 2013 Howk Systems was called in to make emergency repairs in order to get the system operational. An invoice for $1,785 for this emergency work was submitted by Howk Systems and paid by Public Works.

On May 8, 2013, Howk Systems resumed work on the original project scope of work only to find that the lightning had done more damage than originally discovered. Public Works staff instructed Howk Systems to diagnose the extent of the damage and to recommend what needed to be done to complete the original scope of work. Howk Systems spent a total of $2,078 on this effort which was clearly not in their original scope of work. Howk Systems has submitted an invoice for $2,078 for this work which has not been paid to date.

Change Order No. 2 is being brought to the Board for approval because the total project cost will now exceed the $25,000 authority of the Public Works Director. Therefore, it now needs Board approval to proceed with the work.

Staff at Public Works believes that Howk Systems has been very helpful and responsive in the efforts to complete the original scope of work and also in responding to the lightning damage.

On November 14, 2012, Change Order No. 1 for $1,000.00 was approved by the Public Works Director to pay for the replacement of two non-operational valves on the booster pumps.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:  
Do not approve Change Order No. 2. This would mean that Howk Systems would not be paid for their additional work efforts to provide emergency repairs and to diagnose the best way to fix the lightning damage. Disapproval would also mean that additional lightning protection for this critical water system would not be constructed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
Approximately $10,000 is remaining in fund 535; Utility Capital. A funding source needs to be identified for the additional work.

ATTACHMENTS:  
Howk Systems Change Order No. 2  (PDF)  
Howk Systems Change Order No. 1  (PDF)  
Contract for Services with Howk Systems  (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Rick Benson, County Administration Office

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
TO: PETER REI, Public Works Director
FROM: RENE` LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Approve Change Order No. 2 with Howk Systems for Improvements to the Yosemite West Water System in the Amount of $18,863 for a Total Compensation of $29,863; Extend the Term of the Contract to June 30, 2014, and Authorize the Public Works Director to Sign the Change Order
RES. 13-359

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
ADOPTED THIS Order on August 20, 2013

ACTION AND VOTE:

A. Public Works RES-2013-359
Approve Change Order No. 2 with Howk Systems for Improvements to the Yosemite West Water System in the Amount of $18,863 for a Total Compensation of $29,863; Extend the Term of the Contract to June 30, 2014, and Authorize the Public Works Director to Sign the Change Order

Peter Rei made the staff presentation, with Darryl Nielsen/Plant Operator Technician assisting. Mr. Rei and Mr. Nielsen recounted water issues and the attempts that have been made to combat them.

CAO remarked that normally the recommendation would be to defer this until money is available; however, the Public Works Director is saying that is not a good option. CAO noted that the Board’s options are to just pay for this out of general fund, or they could loan the money to the District so that it could move forward immediately, making sure that it is very clear that it is a loan.

Assuming that the rate increase was passed, that loan would be one of the first things that would be repaid. CAO also noted that the budget is very tight, and the only place from which to borrow is the proposed contingency fund. He continued that this item would require an 8 or 9 thousand dollar loan via the contingencies and it would be identified as a loan. CAO also noted that the Board could also make the decision to defer this until the funds are available within the District, but that is not the recommendation of the Public Works Director as this is of such importance that it needs to be done right now.

Mr. Rei noted that this is something of which the regulators are very aware; and that we have made promises to them that we would solve the problems.
CAO noted that there is one other source that is being investigated, a bond reserve fund, but he can't give an absolute status for that at this time. Supervisor Carrier inquired how the system fared with last night's storm. Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Rei responded. Supervisor Stetson required clarification of the procedure to manually start the well. Mr. Nielsen responded.
CAO clarified that the Board only has the change order before it today; and advised that if the Board does take an action, that they do so contingent upon a loan being approved another time.
Supervisor Carrier inquired as to the options that will best clarify that this would only be a loan. CAO responded.
Supervisor Cann inquired of the CAO if there is anything that can be done today to approve it so that they can award it. CAO responded. Mr. Rei commented that they can tell the contractor to get ready to schedule the work, but just cannot tell them to go ahead until next Tuesday. Mr. Rei also noted that he doesn't feel that such a time lag is a problem.
Supervisor Stetson requested confirmation that the work should take approximately two weeks. Mr. Nielsen confirmed.
No public input.
Supervisor Cann moved that the item be approved as requested, contingent upon funding approval to come later. Supervisor Carrier seconded.
Supervisor Bibby inquired if we can clarify that it is to be a loan. Chair Stetson responded that such will be done when it comes back before the Board. CAO offered that they can amend the motion to include: "the approval of a loan next week."
Supervisor Cann amended his motion to approve the item as requested, noting that it is approved as a loan to the district from funding to be determined in the future. Supervisor Carrier, as the second, agreed with the amendment.

Cc:  Bill Davis, Auditor
     File