



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE: **A-0**

February 26, 2003

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

Dear Supervisors:

**GRAND AVENUE REALIGNMENT PROJECT  
APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
PROJECT ID NO. P20000359, C.P. NO. 86483  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1  
4 VOTES**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER THAT  
YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve an increase in the project budget for the Grand Avenue Realignment and Pedestrian Improvement Project to \$14,466,000, an increase of \$2,000,000, funded from an increase in the contribution from the Music Center.
2. Approve the enclosed appropriation adjustment to appropriate the additional funding.
3. Award and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a construction contract to Griffith Company in the amount of \$10,329,344.08, funded by the Music Center, grant and entitlement sources, other revenue sources; establish the effective date of the contract following Board approval; and approve the Faithful Performance and Labor and Materials Bonds filed by the contractor.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the construction of the Grand Avenue Realignment Project to proceed and to complete the roadway and sidewalk components of the project prior to the opening of the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

On October 15, 2002, your Board adopted plans and specifications for the project and authorized the Director of Public Works to award and execute a construction contract with the lowest responsible bidder within the estimated construction cost range of \$6,473,000 and \$8,900,000. On December 3, 2002, Public Works received two bids for the project. The apparent responsible low bidder, Griffith Company, submitted a bid of \$10,329,344.08, \$1,429,344 higher than the upper end of the approved construction cost range. A review of the engineer's estimate and the bids received indicates that the original estimate did not fully account for the difficulty in modifying the Grand Avenue bridge and the added cost of the additional treatment of the sidewalk areas, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and street furnishings. Based upon this review, Public Works and the CAO believe Griffith Company's bid is reasonable and fair.

In order to provide an appropriate level of change order contingency, Public Works and Chief Administrative Officer determined that a total of \$2,000,000 would be required to fully fund the project and proceed to construction. On December 11, 2002, the CAO received confirmation from the Music Center that it had received a donation that would provide the additional \$2,000,000 to allow the project to proceed and be completed prior to the opening of the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The recommended actions will increase the project budget to reflect the bid received and appropriate the funding for the project, in addition to awarding the construction project.

Award of the construction contract was delayed when the California Transportation Commission (CTC), at its December 2002 meeting, did not allocate the \$4,800,000 in State-controlled Transportation Enhancement Act grants and \$4,669,000 in Metropolitan Transportation Authority-controlled State Transportation Improvement Program grants. Collectively, this \$9,469,000 is from a Federal source of funds. The CTC failed to allocate these funds due to uncertainty over the impacts of the State's budgetary reductions.

Public Works has continued to work with the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to resolve the State funding issues. The CTC included an action on its February 27, 2003, agenda to allocate the \$4,800,000 in State-controlled Transportation Enhancement Act grants. The CTC did not allocate the \$4,669,000 in Metropolitan Transportation Authority-controlled State Transportation Improvement Program grants due to continued uncertainty about the State budget. Rather, the CTC approved a substitute project approach. Under this funding arrangement, the County will use its existing Federal entitlement funding,

derived from the Surface Transportation Program, to reimburse the \$4,669,000 in expenditures that were to otherwise be provided by the State Transportation Improvement Program grants. In return, the CTC will provide \$4,669,000 directly to the County, at a future date, that must be used for a transportation project of the County's choosing.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The project meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by creating a more welcoming environment for the community and visitors to the Music Center campus, as well as the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and the County Mall. The various elements of the project will make Grand Avenue and the adjacent facilities more pedestrian friendly and aesthetically pleasing. It will also meet the Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by investing in the public infrastructure.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Based upon the low bid received, the revised project cost is estimated at \$14,466,000, \$2,000,000 more than the previous estimate of \$12,466,000. The Project Schedule and Budget Summary are included as Enclosure A.

The project is funded by an MTA grant totaling \$466,000, two State TEA grants totaling \$4,800,000, \$4,669,000 in entitlement funding available to the County under the Federal Surface Transportation Program, Music Center funds in the amount of \$4,100,000, and \$431,000 of other revenue.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, Griffith Company is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence participants for future employment. Griffith Company is also found to be in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Services Program).

A standard Public Works contract, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring displaced County employees will be included in the contract.

The project specifications contain provisions requiring the contractor to report solicitations of improper consideration by County employees and allowing the County to terminate the contract if it is found that the contractor offered or gave improper consideration to County employees.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), on October 8, 2002, your Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Grand Avenue and Environs Project, which included the realignment of Grand Avenue and associated pedestrian improvements to the County Mall. The environmental mitigation measures related to the realignment and pedestrian improvements, which were adopted by your Board as a condition of project approval, have been incorporated into the plans and specifications for the project.

On October 23, 2002, the Federal Highway Administration found the project to be categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

To further increase contractor awareness of contacting opportunities with the County, this project was listed on the County's website for upcoming bids.

Participation by Community Business Enterprises in the project was encouraged through Public Works' Capital Projects CBE Outreach Program and by monitoring the good faith efforts of the contractor to utilize CBE's.

On October 15, 2002, your Board approved the plans and specifications and authorized the Director of Public Works to advertise for bids upon receiving authorization to advertise from the California Department of Transportation. The project was advertised on October 28. On December 3, 2002, two bids were received. Griffith Company, with a bid of \$10,329,344.08, was determined to be the lowest responsive bidder.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these actions will not impact any other projects. However, during construction, employees and visitors to the adjacent properties will experience some inconvenience.

During construction, the number of traffic lanes will be reduced from the current level. Parking Lots 18 (County Mall garage), 14 (Music Center garage), and 22 (Grand Avenue surface lot) will remain open during construction; however, left turns into and out of these lots from Grand Avenue will be prohibited. Off-hour access to Parking Lot 18 will be provided from Hill Street.

Pedestrian movement at street level along Grand Avenue will be restricted. Pedestrian access to the Grand Avenue entrance of the Hall of Administration will be limited to emergency ingress and egress only. Pedestrian access to the County Courthouse and the Artists' Entrance to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from Grand Avenue will be maintained to the greatest extent possible during construction but may need to be limited to emergency ingress and egress for portions of the construction.

The use of heavy construction equipment within 500 feet of an active venue at the Music Center during performances will be prohibited. Likewise, the use of heavy construction equipment within 150 feet of the southwest corner of the County Courthouse will be prohibited when the courtroom in that corner of the Courthouse is in session.

We have been working with the tenant departments within the Hall of Administration, Superior Court, Music Center, Internal Services Department, and other affected parties to distribute information to employees, visitors, and others prior to the start of construction. In addition, we are establishing a website to provide updates on the construction and changes to road conditions so that employees and others can obtain updated information. The website will be operational prior to the start of construction.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Auditor-Controller, Department of Public Works, and the CAO (Capital Projects).

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

BC:djm

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cc: County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Music Center

February 26, 2003

**ENCLOSURE A**

**GRAND AVENUE REALIGNMENT PROJECT  
APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
AND AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
(C.P. 86483, Project ID No. P200000359)**

**I. PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>Scheduled Completion Date</b>	<b>Revised Completion Date</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Award Design Contract	02/02		02/02
Construction Documents	08/02		09/02
Jurisdictional Approvals	09/02		10/02
Award Construction Contract	11/02	2/03	
Construction Start	01/03	3/03	
Acceptance of Contract	09/03	12/03	

**II. PROJECT BUDGET**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>Current Approved Budget</b>	<b>Impact of this Action</b>	<b>Revised Project Budget</b>
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction (including change order contingency)	\$9,887,000	\$2,000,000	\$11,887,000
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Architectural/Engineering Services	\$1,683,952	\$0	\$1,683,952
Consultant Services	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
Permits & Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
County Services	\$790,000	\$0	\$790,000

TOTAL	\$12,465,952	\$2,000,000	\$14,465,952
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