



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001069

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): District 5

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OC Public Works

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Fiona Man, 714-647-3953
Sam Tieu, 714-647-3968

SUBJECT: Award Construction Contract for Aliso and Wood Canyons Watershed Trail Project

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve agreement to form	CONSENT CALENDAR 3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: Yes	Current Year Cost: \$725,742	Annual Cost: N/A
Staffing Impact: No		Sole Source: No
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	Funding Source: Fund 406: 100%	County Audit in Last 3 years: No
Levine Act Review Completed? Yes		
Prior Board Action: 8/4/2009 #11		

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Award a construction contract to KEC Engineering for Aliso and Wood Canyons Watershed Trail Exhibit Project, effective upon execution of all necessary signatures, to be completed within 60 working days of the effective date of the Notice to Proceed in an amount not to exceed \$725,742.
2. Authorize the Director of OC Public Works or designee to execute the contract with KEC Engineering.

SUMMARY:

Award of the construction contract for the Aliso and Wood Canyons Watershed Trail Exhibit will provide an educational and interpretive activity for park users.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Aliso and Wood Canyons (ALWO) Watershed Trail Exhibit Project (Project) is located within Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park (Park) in Laguna Niguel. The Project represents the final phase of the Wondrous Watershed Trail Project and is intended to enhance public and environmental education through interpretive and interactive elements focused on watershed stewardship and protection of natural resources. This exhibit will feature a *Desmostylus* (prehistoric herbivorous mammal) skeleton embedded in a concrete

platform with a 3D map, a sand dig pit with simulated fossils, displays that showcase various ocean layers and fake boulders for seating.

On August 4, 2009, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Park Resource Management Plan and related CEQA that provides guidance on future policy, land use and resource management decisions for the Park. On March 1, 2019, OC Community Resources entered into a Grant Contract with the California Natural Resources Agency as part of the 2002 Resources Bond Act to grant the County of Orange (County) \$376,800 to complete the Project by June 30, 2027.

On March 5, 2025, OC Public Works retained Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Engineer) to provide professional design engineering services, including the preparation of plans, specifications, and an engineer's estimate for the Project.

On February 11, 2026, OC Public Works issued Pre-Qualification documents through the County online bidding system. Three contractors responded, were pre-qualified and allowed to submit proposals in response to the County's subsequent Invitation for Bid (IFB).

On March 10, 2026, OC Public Works issued an IFB to the pre-qualified contractors. One bid was received and deemed responsive. See Attachment C for the Bid Summary.

The following provides a comparison of the responsive bid against the Engineer's Estimate:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Engineer's Estimate	\$478,457
KEC Engineering	\$725,742

The bid submitted by KEC Engineering (Contractor) is \$725,742, which is approximately 51.6 percent above the Engineer's Estimate of \$478,457, submitted on December 22, 2025. OC Public Works attributes the variance to a combination of factors, including industry-wide cost escalations affecting materials, labor and overall risk allocation. Regional construction costs have increased at one of the fastest rates in recent periods, driven by higher prices for steel and fabricated metal products, concrete inputs, fuel and transportation. Recent unexpected cost increases and persistent inflationary pressures have also required contractors to include greater contingency and risk pricing to account for continued volatility.

Given that the solicitation was limited to prequalified contractors and only one responsive bid was received, the bid is considered reflective of current market conditions. OC Public Works has reviewed the bid and determined it to be fair and reasonable.

OC Public Works recommends the Board award construction Contract MA-012-26011344 (Contract) to Contractor for the Project, effective upon execution of all necessary signatures, to be completed within 60 working days of the effective date of the Notice to Proceed in an amount not to exceed \$725,742.

An analysis was completed to verify the Contract provides the County with persons specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services in accordance with the law.

The Contractor's license number was verified as current and active through the Contractors State License Board database on April 22, 2026. A copy of the verification is on file.

OC Public Works has conducted due diligence on the Contractor. Reference checks were satisfactory and completed with City of Desert Hot Springs and Riverside and San Bernardino counties regarding similar projects.

This contract does not currently include subcontractors or pass through to other providers. See Attachment B for Contract Summary Form.

Compliance with CEQA: This Project is a necessarily included element of the project considered in Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) No. IP 08-269, approved by the Board on August 8, 2009, for the Resource Management Plan for the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, which adequately addressed the effects of the proposed Project. No substantial changes have been made in the Project, no substantial changes have occurred in the circumstances under which the Project is being undertaken and no new information of substantial importance to the Project which was not known or could not have been known when the IS/MND No. IP 08-269 was approved has become known; therefore, no further environmental review is required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for the Contract are included in Fund 406, OC Parks Capital Improvement Program, FY 2025-26 Budget.

The proposed Contract is contingent upon funding availability. In the event funding is reduced or terminated, the County may renegotiate the level of services and/or terminate the Contract without penalty.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

OC Community Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Contract MA-012-26011344 with KEC Engineering

Attachment B - Contract Summary Form

Attachment C - Bid Summary

Attachment D - Location Map