

Council Meeting of  
February 6, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Public Works- Appropriation of \$33,444.49 from the Water Enterprise Fund balance and approval of a supplemental payment to Valverde Construction, Inc. for emergency repairs to water main in Western Avenue and for payment to Robert G. Castongia, Inc., for emergency repairs to six water main breaks. Expenditure: \$33,444.49**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Works Director recommends that the City Council:

1. Approve an appropriation of \$33,444.49 from the Water Enterprise Fund balance to the Water Operating Budget; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to approve a supplemental payment to Valverde Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,444.49 for emergency repairs performed on a water main repair in Western Avenue.
3. Authorize the City Manager to approve a not-to-exceed payment in the amount of \$30,000 to Robert G. Castongia, Inc, for emergency repairs for six water breaks at various locations throughout the City.

**Funding**

Funding is available from the Water Enterprise Fund balance.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

On November 4, 2006 a major water main break occurred on a 12-inch water pipeline in Western Avenue, between Toyota Way and Francisco Place. The rupture flooded a section of the roadway and caused significant damage to a 200-foot section of the roadway. Due to the nature and extent of the rupture, it was necessary to retain the services of Valverde Construction, Inc. (Valverde) to fix the pipeline and place the water main back in service over a three day period.

On November 21, 2006, an Item was submitted to the City Council requesting an appropriation of \$200,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to cover the projected costs for the emergency repair/rehabilitation of the pipeline and the restoration of the roadway. The Council Item also stipulated that the City Manager be authorized to approve payment to

Valverde for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 for the emergency repairs and payment to the pavement contractor for a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000. It should be noted that these cost estimates were based on the best information available at the time.

In mid December, we received a final billing from Valverde in the amount of \$53,444.49 for the emergency repair work to the water main. Although their original informal estimate was in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000, Valverde's actual incurred costs were \$3,444.49 above the original \$50,000 not-to-exceed estimate. Staff has thoroughly reviewed Valverde's request for the balance of \$3,444.49 and finds that these additional costs are warranted, and recommends that the City Manager be authorized to make a supplemental payment to Valverde to cover the outstanding balance.

During the month of January 2007, Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) experienced a record number of water main breaks. As of January 29, 40 main breaks were recorded for the month to date. In comparison, TMW experienced a total of 57 main breaks for the entire year of 2006. This extraordinary number of pipeline ruptures was primarily the result of extremely cold temperatures of the water supply in the distribution mains. Although municipal field crews repaired the vast majority of these breaks, it was necessary to retain the services of an outside contractor, Robert G. Castongia, to perform emergency repairs to water mains at six locations throughout the city. Although the final billings are still pending, the total for these repairs will not exceed \$30,000. It is requested that the City Manager be authorized to make a payment not to exceed \$30,000 to the contractor for performance of these emergency repairs.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE  
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



Robert J. Beste  
Public Works Director

By   
Charles J. Schaich  
Senior Administrative Analyst



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachment: A. Council Item of November 21, 2006

Council Meeting of  
November 21, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the Torrance City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Public Works - Appropriation of \$200,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Balance for Emergency Water Main and Pavement Repairs to Western Avenue. Expenditure: \$200,000**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Works Director recommends that the City Council:

1. Approve an appropriation of \$200,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund balance to the Water Operating Budget; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to approve a payment to Valverde Construction, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 for emergency repairs performed on a water main in Western Avenue; and
3. Authorize the City Manager and Public Works Director to secure a pavement contractor for a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000 to perform pavement repair to the portion of Western Avenue damaged by the ruptured water main.

### **Funding**

Funding is available from the Water Enterprise Fund balance.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

#### **Payment for Water Main Repair**

On Saturday, November 4, 2006, a 12-inch diameter cast iron water main in Western Avenue, between Toyota Way and Francisco Way, ruptured and flooded a 200-foot long section of the roadway. Subsequently, the Public Works Department arranged for Valverde Construction, Inc. of Santa Fe Springs to perform an emergency repair to the water main on a time and material basis. During the water main repairs, it was necessary to close this section of Western Avenue with the assistance of the Torrance Police Department. The water main repair was completed on Monday, November 6 and the roadway was then opened to traffic. The total cost for the water main repair is approximately \$50,000.

The Public Works Director recommends that Your Honorable Body approve the appropriation of Water Enterprise Funds and authorize the City Manager to approve a not-to-exceed payment in the amount of \$50,000 to Valverde Construction, Inc. for the emergency repair work they completed to the water main in Western Avenue.

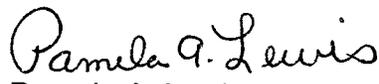
### **Pavement Repair of Western Avenue**

Although Western Avenue has been re-opened to traffic, the ruptured water main caused the uplift of a 200-foot section of pavement on Western Avenue. As this section of Western Avenue is owned by the State of California, both Caltrans and Public Works engineering staff met to inspect the roadway and discuss the needed pavement repairs. It was determined that the uplifted pavement must be removed, the underlying soil graded and re-compacted, and the area repaved with an equivalent pavement structural section.

Public Works staff has determined that a contractor should be secured to perform the pavement repairs and City crews will be utilized to re-stripe the travel lanes. Engineering staff has estimated the cost of the pavement repair to be \$150,000. The cost provides for the pavement repair to occur on a weekend to help minimize impacts to residents, businesses and commuter traffic. Should the appropriation be approved, the City Manager and Public Works Director will work in conjunction with the City Attorney to quickly hire a contractor in accordance with State law and City policy. Shortly thereafter, engineering staff will schedule the pavement repairs.

Respectfully submitted,

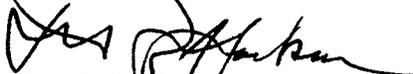
ROBERT J. BESTE  
Public Works Director

  
By Pamela A. Lewis  
Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:



Robert J. Beste  
Public Works Director



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager