



MEMORANDUM

FC 14 (01-02-07)

TO: Norma Camacho
Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Nina Hawk
Chief Operating Officer –
Water Utility

SUBJECT: Emergency Declaration to Repair Almaden
Valley Pipeline Pursuant to Public Contract
Code §22050

DATE: December 5, 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to formally request that you as the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) immediately declare an emergency pursuant to California Public Contract Code §22050 and District Resolution 05-67 to enable the prompt repair of the Almaden Valley Pipeline (AVP) in the City of San Jose, California. This emergency declaration will exempt the District from undergoing competitive bidding requirements to procure the necessary equipment, supplies, non-professional services, and public works to attend to the emergency action described in this memorandum.

The AVP consists of approximately 12 miles of 72-inch to 78-inch diameter Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) and welded steel pipe (WSP). The pipeline was constructed in two major segments: AVP Unit 1 was constructed in the 1960's, and AVP Unit 2 was constructed in the 1980's. The AVP is used to supply raw water to the District's water treatment plants and groundwater recharge facilities. In 2007 and 2008, staff completed inspection and rehabilitation projects on the AVP. In 2011, staff repaired a damaged section of PCCP that was identified during an inspection of the AVP. The damage to the pipe section was caused by increased stress from a newly-constructed bridge abutment.

BACKGROUND:

AVP inspection and rehabilitation work began on October 27, 2017. At that time, the Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant (STWTP) was also shutdown. Following three weeks of dewatering, inspection activities took place on November 21 and November 22, 2017. Preliminary investigation results for Unit 2 indicate a large number of distressed PCCP sections were detected between Santa Teresa Force Main and Calero Reservoir. As a result, the District cannot return the AVP to safe and reliable service unless we repair significantly distressed repair pipe sections and understand why such degradation of the pipe has occurred. The return to service date for AVP Unit 2 and STWTP was to be January 19th. The return to service date for AVP Unit 1 Coleman Line Valve to Vasona was to be March 16th. Failure to return the pipeline to service by the prescribed dates will pose a significant risk to the District's ability to provide sufficient water to meet minimum water supply demands, as the District's contractual obligations for water delivery increase.

The current condition of the AVP poses an emergency condition as it cannot be safely returned to service prior to significant repairs.. Per California Public Contract Code §1102, an emergency is "a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services."

The District staff and contractor personnel will need to enter the AVP site to perform an emergency inspection and repair of the facility. The Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plant will need to remain offline for a greater than anticipated duration to affect repairs and ensure personnel safety. If the District should lose the ability to take water from the State Water Project (via the South Bay Aqueduct), there would be an immediate and substantial curtailment of water services in the County.

A Declaration of Emergency is now needed from you, so immediate action can be taken to complete all work activities related to the repair of structurally distressed pipe on the Almaden Valley Pipeline. Based on the substantial evidence detailed above, I am recommending that you as the District CEO officially declare that an emergency situation exists as defined by the California Public Contract Code §1102. If you agree with this recommendation, please sign below.



Nina Hawk
Chief Operating Officer-Water Utility

Concur:



Norma J. Camacho
Chief Executive Officer

District Counsel:



Anthony Fulcher
Senior Assistant District Counsel