

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

December 13, 2004

## Subject

Consultant Agreement with Chaudhary and Associates, Inc., relating to the Ralston Avenue/Marine Parkway/Route 101 Interchange Reconfiguration Project.

## Recommendation

Approve agreement with Chaudhary and Associates, Inc., for providing construction surveying and other related support for the Ralston Avenue/Marine Parkway/Route 101 Interchange Reconfiguration Project, in an amount not to exceed \$95,877.60.

## Background

The subject project is currently under construction, and is approximately 40% complete. The majority of earthwork and embankment is substantially complete and the two major items of work left are the bridge structure on Island Parkway over the northbound onramp, and various retaining walls. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2005 provided that we do not get an exceptionally wet winter.

On February 2, 2004 an amendment of Mark Thomas and Company's (MTCO) contract was approved by this City Council to add, among other tasks, construction surveying to MTCO's existing design contract. MTCO is the Design Engineer of record for this project, was selected as the surveyor based on their qualifications. MTCO's budget was based on the Contractor requesting the minimal amount of surveying. MTCO has provided construction survey staking from the project inception in April until October.

As it turns out, the Contractor requested more surveying services than staff anticipated. Furthermore, the survey crews that were provided by MTCO made more mistakes that acceptable. These mistakes created a very confrontational working relationship between the surveyor and the Contractor.

The shortfalls created a lack of confidence even after many changes implemented by the new Director of Surveying at MTCO. This task also caused much added tension between the project management team and the Contractor which in turn created more resource draining discussions and coordination efforts from all parties. For this reason, staff recommends a new surveyor to restore order and confidence in the project. MTCO will remain on the project to assist in design related and contract document interpretation issues.

MTCO's budget for this task is only \$258,900. Since the Contractor requested more surveying than anticipated, the balance remaining is only \$4,850, for this task.

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Therefore, it would have been necessary to supplement the budget for this task anyway, so in-lieu-of amending MTCO's contract, staff is recommending a new contract to Chaudhary & Associates. Chaudhary and Associates' budget of \$95,877.60, is anticipated to cover surveying needs to the end of the project.

Chaudhary and Associates, Inc. is a well respected firm in the highway industry and was selected based on their qualification in accordance with the Mini (Cal.) Brooks Act. They were the surveyors for the Highway 101 Auxiliary lanes north of Ralston and also surveyed the San Francisco Airport project, which involved complex aerial bridge over-crosses and a multi-level approach structure to the new International Terminal.

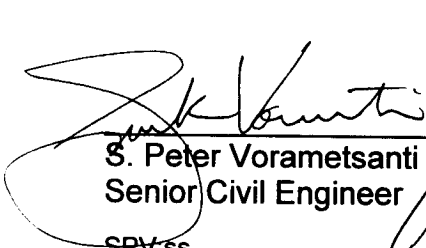
The construction contract for this project was awarded on August 11, 2003, to OC Jones and Sons, Inc. The value of the construction contract is \$12.45 million. Harris and Associates was retained by the City to assist with the construction management of this project. Caltrans has oversight responsibility, and the City of Belmont has assigned the project management authority to Redwood City through a co-op agreement.

**Alternative**

Council can choose not to approve this contract, which will require finding another engineering firm to perform this work or to continue to work with MTCO surveyors, which will seriously risk the successful completion of the subject project.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funds in the amount of \$3.5 million are available in the 2004-05 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget under the Capital Project Funds, to support this project, covering landscaping, environmental mitigation, utility relocation, and other miscellaneous expenses, including this expense.



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