



City of Oceanside

300 North Coast Highway,
Oceanside, California 92054

Staff Report

File #: 25-1179

Agenda Date: 1/14/2026

Agenda #: 12.

DATE: January 14, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Water Utilities Department

TITLE: APPROVE CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY WORK TO REPAIR THE 18-INCH MESA LOMA WATER MAIN AT LOMA ALTA CREEK

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council determine there remains a need to continue emergency work on the 18-inch Mesa Loma Water Main, and appropriate funds in the amount of \$650,000 from the Water Fixed Asset Replacement Fund unrestricted fund balance.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In January 2024, staff isolated a leaking segment of the 18-inch Mesa Loma Water Main near Loma Alta Creek and activated the Mesa Loma Pump Station to maintain service.

Emergency permits were secured in early 2025 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and North County Transit District (NCTD). Cass Arrieta, the City's emergency contractor, began work in April 2025. Initial repairs addressed significant damage to the pipeline within the creek directly north of the NCTD tracks, and subsequent inspections revealed additional deficiencies in multiple joints near the initial repair site.

To address the corrosion found in the segment north of the tracks, 300 feet of the existing pipe was lined and final connections were completed September 30, 2025, under the City's emergency procurement policy. Upon completion of the work, 1,800 feet of existing pipe that had been isolated for the repair work was pressure tested and failed to hold pressure. Another leak in the pipeline is suspected south of the railroad tracks where the existing steel pipeline was observed to have similar interior lining and corrosion defects. Repair options for this segment have been reviewed and Staff has determined the most cost-effective solution is to replace approximately 150 feet of existing steel with a more corrosion resistant PVC pipe. Work on this additional repair commenced in December 2025, and is expected to be complete on February 13, 2026.

Change Order No. 1 executed on August 6, 2025, in the amount of \$182,966 increased Cass-Arrieta's original \$100,000 emergency contract to \$282,966 to repair the initial defect in Loma Alta Creek. Change Order No. 2, executed on August 20, 2025, in the amount of \$699,612, allowed for additional work associated with the liner installation. Both change orders were approved by the City Manager under the City's emergency procurement policy.

Change Order No. 3 (Attachment A), in the amount of \$896,348.47, will be executed to include a

credit for balance unused on previous repairs and for the replacement of additional pipe south of the tracks.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the emergency water main repair is from the Water Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (712), and is charged to the Water Pipeline Replacement Account 908163620712.

The total estimated project cost is \$2.67 million which includes emergency construction, pipe rehabilitation, permitting, railroad coordination, and engineering and support services required to complete repairs north of the railroad tracks, and address remaining deficiencies south of the tracks. A detailed breakdown of the estimated costs is provided in Table 1 below. Staff will return with a final accounting of actual costs upon project completion.

Based on current expenditures, encumbrances, and anticipated expenditures to complete the emergency repairs, an additional \$650,000 appropriation is requested to the project account 908163620712.5703.10600 from the Water Fixed Asset Replacement fund unrestricted fund balance account 712.3100.0002, which has an available balance of \$83.78 million; therefore, there are sufficient funds to complete this project.

Once the emergency work is complete, staff recommends that Council authorize an additional \$100,000 purchase order increase with Cass Arrieta to replenish a dedicated emergency account for future immediate response needs.

Table 1.

Water Pipeline Replacement Project Account No. 908163620712	
Emergency Construction Costs (5703.10600)	
Cass Arrieta Cost - North Repairs	\$734,626
Pipe Rehabilitation/Lining - North Repairs	155,570
Cass Arrieta Estimated Cost - South Repai	1,144,300
Permit Costs	6,225
NCTD Flagging Services Jacobs Project M	220,000
Construction Subtotal	2,260,721
Amount Encumbered or Spent	1,293,942
Available Balance in 5703.10600	429,468
Recommended Appropriation from 712.310	650,000
Subtotal	2,373,410
Replenish Amount for Next Emergency wit	100,000
Remaining Account Balance (5703.1060)	\$12,689
Engineering Services (As-Needed Contracts) 5305.10600	
Helix Environmental	36,300
Environmental Monitoring	156,045
LGC Geotechnical Engineering	23,000
Guida Surveying	28,000

HDR Corrosion/Televising Video	45,000
NV5 Engineering	40,878
Project Management & Administrative Sup	80,000
As-needed Engineering Support Subtotal	409,223
Amount Encumbered or Spent	130,287
Available Balance in 5305.10600	385,308
Subtotal	515,595
Remaining Account Balance (5305.1060)	\$106,372
Total Estimated Emergency Repair Cost &	2,769,944
Total Encumbered and Appropriated Funds	2,889,005
Remaining Project Account Estimated E	\$119,061

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Project is located in an environmentally sensitive area. Staff has received an extension of emergency environmental permits for the proposed replacement on southside of railroad tracks to ensure compliance and minimize impacts.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

The Utilities Commission will be apprised of the project update at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 20, 2026.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

Emergency procurements for public projects without competitive bidding are authorized according to the provisions of Section 28A.24 of the Oceanside City Code and California Public Contract Code Section 22050. The emergency action should be terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant so that the remainder of the work, if any, may be completed pursuant to the City's regular competitive bidding process.

Prepared by: Mabel Uyeda, Water Engineering Manager

Reviewed by: Frederick Mayo, Water Utilities Director

Submitted by: Jonathan Borrego, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Staff Report
2. Attachment A