



City of Oceanside

300 North Coast Highway,
Oceanside, California 92054

Staff Report

File #: 26-1225

Agenda Date: 2/4/2026

Agenda #: 8.

DATE: February 4, 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.

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. 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 February 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 north of the tracks. Change Order No. 3, executed on January 14, 2026, in the amount of \$896,348.47 was for the replacement of additional pipe south of the tracks. All change orders were approved under the City's emergency procurement policy.

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. Staff will return with a final accounting of actual costs upon project completion.

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 was 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.

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