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April 29, 2009

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STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST FINDINGS

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION

COMMERCE AVENUE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS
ESPL-5006(571)

In compliance with Title 23 USC, Section 116, the City of Los Angeles hereby submits information demonstrating that the use of City Force Account resources for the Commerce Avenue Pedestrian Improvements under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is in the best interest of the citizens of Los Angeles and the State of California.

Description of Work to be performed:
This is a pilot "green" pedestrian safety project that provides for reconstruction of sidewalks along Commerce Ave between Foothill Bl and Valmont St within the City of Los Angeles using modular interlocking paving system fabricated from 100% recycled plastic and rubber materials. The proposed pavers are more flexible, correctible, and tolerant to the subgrade soil. The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services (BSS) provided design of the project. The City will construct this project in compliance with the Caltrans' Local Assistance Procedures Manual for Force Account Work and meet applicable design standards for this agency: Statewide Design Standards for Local Assistance Projects (Roadway Appurtenances, Pedestrian Facilities, and ADA Compliance), Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Green Book), and City of Los Angeles Standard Plans. It is understood that all documents relating to this project are subject to review by the FHWA and/or Caltrans.

All Force Account work performed hereunder will be fully documented, including time sheets, field reports, material testing and sampling (QAP), and material and equipment costs.

Meeting the Objectives of ARRA:
The City of Los Angeles is committed to achieving the objectives set forth by the Federal government in ARRA: infrastructure investment, local fiscal stabilization, job preservation and creation, and assistance to the unemployed.

This project will invest in our local infrastructure by rehabilitating Commerce Ave in the City of Los Angeles. By construction of sidewalk improvements and constructing ADA-compliant access ramps with detectable warning surfaces, this project will help in stabilizing the local economy through purchase of materials such as modular paving systems (100% recycled plastic and rubber materials), Portland Concrete Cement (PCC), detectable

warning surfaces, and other construction materials from local vendors in the western United States region.

One of the primary goals of ARRA is to preserve and create jobs. This project will not only retain existing experienced City staff, but will require an estimated two (2) new staff, to be hired through either the hiring hall, the local Job Corps, or civil service process for completion of this project. The hiring of staff through any of these methods supports the April 3, 2009 directive issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget(OMB) entitled "Updating Implementing Guidance for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009", which states that "Departments and agencies should seek to maximize the economic benefits of a Recovery Act-funded investment in a particular community by supporting projects that seek to ensure that the people who live in the local community get the job opportunities that accompany the investment." In addition to the construction staff, there will be support staff needed for coordination work, construction inspection, engineering, and quality control.

As stated above, the current City Force Account crews are well trained and experienced in paving operations. The newly hired staff will be placed into existing crews to learn the City's operations and gain experience from the existing City Force Account staff. The City also provides in-house training courses as well as advanced education courses that will benefit those who are newly hired into the City.

Cost Effectiveness of Force Account

It is generally recognized that construction change orders are not cost effective. The use of City Force Account eliminates the potentially expensive change orders charged by a contractor for standby and necessary design modification due to unexpected changes of site conditions. City Force Account staff can and will also be mobilized immediately to minimize pedestrian and vehicular traffic disruption. Using Force Account also eliminates the need to advertise, bid, award and administer a construction contract, which translates into an estimated fifteen percent (15%) to thirty percent (30%) cost savings. In addition, the use of City Force Account reduces the overall project schedule and prevents project delays by potential contractor claims.

The City Force Account has experience on numerous pedestrian improvement projects. City Force Account has the staff, knowledge, experience, equipment, material, and necessary engineering support to execute construction of this project in the most cost effective manner.

Comparison of Cost Estimates

*Average Comparison Unit Cost Data are based upon Los Angeles County Department Public Works 2007-08 Unit Cost Data, Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering 2007-08 Unit Cost Data, and compilation of other contract unit costs.

	UNIT COSTS			BSS 2007-08 Force Account Unit Price		*Average Comparison Unit Cost Data (2007-08)		
Item No.	**Item Description**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Cost**	**Unit Price**	**Total Cost**	**Remarks**
1	Mobilization	LS	1	$30,000.00	$30,000.00	$33,000.00	$33,000.00	
2	Clearing and grubbing	LS	1	$25,000.00	$25,000.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	
3	Traffic Control	LS	1	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	$10,000.00	
4	Excavation & hauling	CY	750	$70.00	$52,500.00	$80.00	$60,000.00	

5	Concrete curb & gutter	LF	3,200	$37.00	$118,400.00	$39.00	$124,800.00	**BSS cost includes removals; Comparison Unit Costs are sum of removal and construct of item**
6	Interlocking Modular Paving System Sidewalks/Concrete Sidewalks	SF	22,000	$18.00	$396,000.00	Insufficient data from other contracts (assume equal price as City's)	$396,000.00	**Insufficient data available for this item; BSS cost includes necessary grading**
7	6" thick concrete driveway	SF	5,000	$15.00	$75,000.00	$15.00	$75,000.00	**BSS cost includes removals; Comparison Unit Costs are sum of removal and construct of item**
8	4" CMB	LF	10,000	$2.00	$20,000.00	$2.25	$22,500.00	
9	AC Paving	SF	5,000	$5.00	$25,000.00	$5.00	$25,000.00	
10	ADA compliant access ramps with detectable warning surfaces	EA	12	$3,300.00	$39,600.00	$3,500.00	$42,000.00	
11	Tree root pruning	EA	32	$850.00	$27,200.00	$1000.00	$32,000.00	
				Subtotal:	$818,700.00		$840,000.00	
			10%	Contingency	$81,300.00		$84,000.00	
				TOTAL:	$900,000.00		$924,300.00	

Advantages of Force Account Projects

In the past decade, the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Street Services has constructed hundreds of miles of sidewalk improvements through various City-funded sidewalk programs, as well as many State and Federally-funded grants for bulkheads, pedestrian improvements, bikepaths, and other transportation enhancements projects. Through years of repetitious work, BSS has become very experience and efficient on performing specific tasks. For example: (1) constructing new access ramps or modifying existing ramps in compliance with the American Disability Act (ADA) standards; (2) using forming machine for curb and gutter construction; and (3) constructing/repairing sidewalks in conjunction with building/modifying tree wells, and (4) established close coordination and working relation with other utility owners, such as: streetlights, traffic signals, power, water, gas, and others. The Force Account crews are experienced in many different types of projects, knowledgeable in standards and specifications, and familiar with the constituents in the various communities within the City of Los Angeles. As summarized below, these are some of the advantages of using Force Account:

- Experienced crews work efficiently to minimize construction time, and thereby minimizing complaints

by communities/constituents

- Efficiency translates into cost-effectiveness
- Flexibility in scheduling of projects favored by communities/constituents to lessen community impact
- Cost savings from the advertise-bid-award process, contract change orders, and contractor claims can be used for the construction costs
- No delays due to contractor claims
- In-house engineers and landscape architects staff work closely with construction crews to resolve any unforeseen issues during construction

Certification

Approximately $900,000 in FESP funds will be used to complete the construction of the subject project. I certify that the statements contained herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and further certify that the use of Force Account to perform the work described herein is in the best interest of the citizens of Los Angeles and the State of California.

By: _____

for **WILLIAM A. ROBERTSON, Director**
Bureau of Street Services

WAR/FC/sl