

# City of Los Alamitos

## Agenda Report Consent Calendar

April 6, 2009  
Item No: 7F

**To:** Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council

**Via:** Nita McKay, Interim City Manager

**From:** Steven Mendoza, Director of Community Development

**Subject:** Approval of Professional Services Agreement/Aslan Group Inc. for Katella Avenue Rehabilitation-Siboney Street to Walker Street

**Summary:** The rehabilitation of Katella Avenue between Siboney Street and Walker Street is to be funded through the federal economic stimulus program. As such the City must move expeditiously with the project or lose this unique funding opportunity. The preliminary work must be funded by the City; therefore, staff is recommending hiring the Aslan Group as a sole source contract to work with the City Engineer to get the project ready as soon as possible. Costs for this phase will come from remaining funds for this year's street resurfacing program.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Approve the professional services agreement in the amount of \$30,000 with the Aslan Group for the Katella Avenue Rehabilitation Project; and,
2. Approve the use of a "sole source" contract due to the urgency to move as quickly as possible on the Federal Economic Stimulus project; and,
3. Authorize the Mayor to execute the professional services agreement.

### **Background**

The federal government is distributing funding for public works projects as part of its plan to help stimulate the economy. The funding is ultimately distributed to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to distribute to member agencies throughout Orange County. While the funding is managed by OCTA, the City must work with Caltrans for administration of the various project processes such as environmental, project reports, plan review, right of way, etc.

When the public works economic stimulus initially started in December of 2008, the City was requested to submit projects to be included in the program. We submitted a request for \$5.1 million for various projects. As the program progressed we were informed the program was pared down and funding should be limited to two projects.

We again submitted a revised request in the amount of \$2.1 million. As the program evolved we were told the funding was going to be even more limited and that OCTA would distribute funds on a population basis with a minimum amount of \$500,000 per city.

Due to the funding amount, OCTA also limited the City to a single project and it had to be on a major arterial. In review of the City's Seven Year CIP, the highest priority project that fit the requirements and would be able to capture all the stimulus funds, was the rehabilitation of Katella Avenue from Siboney Street to Walker Street. This was also believed to be a good choice since the northerly curb lane was recently resurfaced by the City of Cypress; therefore, the resurfacing would provide a uniform appearance to the street.

## ***Discussion***

### Consultant Services

Caltrans is working with the cities to get all the necessary processes done as soon as possible. We will need to get all our approvals before proceeding with final plans and approval to construct. The Caltrans/federal process is difficult and cumbersome at best. While Caltrans has promised to expedite the process they are requiring that all paperwork must be done within a 120 day time frame.

As such, it is important the City move as quickly as possible so as not to lose this funding opportunity to help stimulate the economy. Funding of the preliminary work, unfortunately, is not reimbursable under the program. Federal funding is only reimbursable once the necessary processes are authorized by Caltrans and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In light of this, staff considered options to complete the work needed through design, while keeping costs down and still meeting the tight timelines.

In the past, the City Engineer has used the services of Rich Underwood, President of the Aslan Group Inc., to provide assistance in preparing projects for bid. Mr. Underwood is a non-registered consultant that provides support services for projects to governmental agencies. This includes preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates. However, with the Aslan Group, all work is performed under the direction of the City Engineer for the design and preparation of plans and specifications. Under this arrangement the hourly rates are considerably less than a typical engineering consultant.

The Aslan Group is unique in providing such services. They have provided services to the City of Ontario and Brawley for similar projects. Below is a list of just a few of the projects performed by the Aslan Group that are street resurfacing and rehabilitation projects:

- Haven Avenue Rehabilitation/Resurfacing Project (Ontario).....\$226,000
- Grove Avenue Rehabilitation/Resurfacing Project (Ontario).....\$444,000
- Airport Roadway Rehabilitation/Resurfacing Project (Brawley)....\$428,000
- Riverside Avenue Reconstruction (Ontario).....\$648,000

Additionally the City's City Engineer, in the past, has worked with the principal, Mr. Rich Underwood on numerous city improvement projects of a similar nature and found his services to be extremely professional, performed in a timely manner and very knowledgeable of public works contract requirements.

The Aslan Group is currently available to move on this project as quickly as possible. Staff is therefore recommending Council approve the proposed professional services contract with the Aslan Group in the amount of \$30,000, and ask that the Council approve a sole source contract to allow us to move as quickly as possible.

### ***Fiscal Impact***

It is proposed that funding for this effort come from the current budget allocation for this year's street resurfacing program. There is approximately \$211,000 remaining in the fund. Additionally the City has submitted the reimbursement request for the grant received for using rubberized asphalt in this year's resurfacing contract. The reimbursement will provide an additional \$78,625 in funding.

Prepared By:

Submitted By:

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William Huber  
City Engineer

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Steven Mendoza  
Community Development Director

Approved By:

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Nita McKay  
Interim City Manager

*Attachment: 1) Agreement*