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REPORT TO COUNCIL
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
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CONSENT ITEM
June 8, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Use of Emergency Contracting Procedures to Repair Depressions at Pocket Road; Trudy Way and Harman Way; and Fremont Way and San Luis Court

Location/Council District: Pocket Road near Sea Lion Court (Council District 7); Trudy Way and Harman Way (Council District 7); and Fremont Way and San Luis Court (Council District 4). See attached Location Maps A and B.

Recommendation:

N/A. Information only

Contact: Dave Brent, Engineering Manager, 808-1420; Rick Batha, Supervising Engineer, 808-1448

Presenters: N/A

Department: Utilities

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 3332

Summary: Emergency contracting procedures were used to repair depressions that were at risk of becoming sinkholes at three separate locations. The City Code allows the use of emergency contracting, which bypasses typical contracting procedures, in an emergency situation when the public interest and necessity demand immediate repair or replacement to safeguard life, health, or property, to permit the continued conduct of city operations or services, or to mitigate further damage. In this case, emergency repairs in the total amount of $152,000 were needed to protect property, permit the continued operation of City utilities and mitigate further damages at these locations. This report describes the emergency situations, the actions taken and the number and amount of contracts let, as required by the City Code.

Committee/Commission Action: None.

Background Information:

In April, three low lying locations in the City experienced sudden settlement of the streets or backyards (depressions) that necessitated immediate response to prevent damage to private property and to ensure roadway safety. In each of these three locations, high groundwater conditions existed due to the low lying elevations of the areas and high water conditions in the Sacramento River. In addition, each location is underlain by loose, sandy soils that are subject to the development of voids. The undermining of the road at the Pocket Road and Trudy Way depressions was caused by faulty and failed manhole connections and pipe joints that allowed the sandy soils to flow through sewer pipes. The Freemont Way site failed due to the same conditions but impacted backyards because the old sewer line is within backyard easements.

Pocket Road: On April 17, 2006, DOU staff recognized settlement of the southbound lanes of Pocket Road adjacent to a water service repair and next to a manhole. On the next day, the southbound lanes were closed and traffic was diverted to the northbound side of the median. Investigation revealed two damaged sewer mains that allowed groundwater and the surrounding soil to enter the manhole. A third connecting pipeline as well as the bottom of the manhole, both located 21-feet below the surface, were under heavy flow caused by the leaks, and investigation was not possible without lowering the water level. As staff attempted this, the settlement accelerated and staff searched for alternative methods to repair the failed sewer pipes and the settled manhole.

Staff determined that excavation and repair was risky due to the high groundwater and soft, unstable soils. Instead, staff chose to utilize modern "trenchless technology", consisting of internal liners, various grouting techniques, and other methods to repair the pipes and seal them from groundwater and soil intrusion. Two contractors were located on short notice and worked in collaboration with City staff to accomplish the repairs, allowing the Pocket Road street surface to be repaired and re-opened to traffic. Pacific Liners, Inc., provided the pipe liners to restore the pipe wall integrity and chemical grouting to seal off the groundwater and GeoGrout, Inc., injected stabilization grout below the manhole and permeation grout surrounding the pipes connecting to the manhole to further seal them from groundwater and soil intrusion. This work was done continuously, through the weekends, until the pipes and manhole were stabilized.

Trudy/Harman/Way and Freemont Way: The depressions at Trudy/Harman Way and at Fremont Way also jeopardized property. The depression at the intersection of Trudy Way and Harman Way was caused by subsurface soils flowing into openings in a damaged manhole creating a large void that was in danger of collapse. Staff directed GeoGrout to fill the voids under the pavement with permeation grout to safeguard and restore safe use of the streets. At Fremont Way, a large depression occurred, resulting in the removal of supporting soil near two garages. Again, GeoGrout was directed to fill the settlement cracks with permeation grout and to grout under the structures to buttress them in case they were undermined by the depression.

Contracts for the above emergency work were signed with Pacific Liners, Inc., and GeoGrout, Inc., on a time and materials basis, for amounts not to exceed $75,000 and $99,000 respectively. To date, costs have been incurred for $57,000 and $95,000 for a total of $152,000. No further costs are anticipated at this time.

Staff believes that these three manhole and pipe failures were primarily caused by defects due to age (Fremont Way) or defects in the original construction (Pocket Road and Trudy Way), exacerbated by surrounding loose sandy soils and the high groundwater caused by high river levels.

Financial Considerations:

There are sufficient funds in the Sewer System Rehabilitation Project (PN: XB16, Fund 414) for the costs of repairing the Pocket Road sinkhole and the Trudy Way sinkhole. There are sufficient funds in the CSS Miscellaneous Project (PN: XM25, Funds 414/425) for the costs of repairing the Fremont Way sinkhole.

Environmental Considerations:

Emergency repairs to utility service facilities do not require environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Section 15269(b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Policy Considerations:

City Code Section 3.60.070 authorizes emergency repair contracts without utilizing the City's standard contracting procedures, so long as the amount of each individual contract does not exceed $100,000.00, and requires the City Manager to present a follow-up report to the City Council describing the emergency, the actions taken and the number and amount of contracts let. Contracting with Pacific Liners, Inc. and with GeoGrout, Inc. was performed in conformance with these procedures.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

Pacific Liners, Inc. is a certified ESBD and GeoGrout is an ESBD certified with the State

of California and is in the process of procuring City certification.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

Approved by: _____
Gary A. Reents
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:

_____
for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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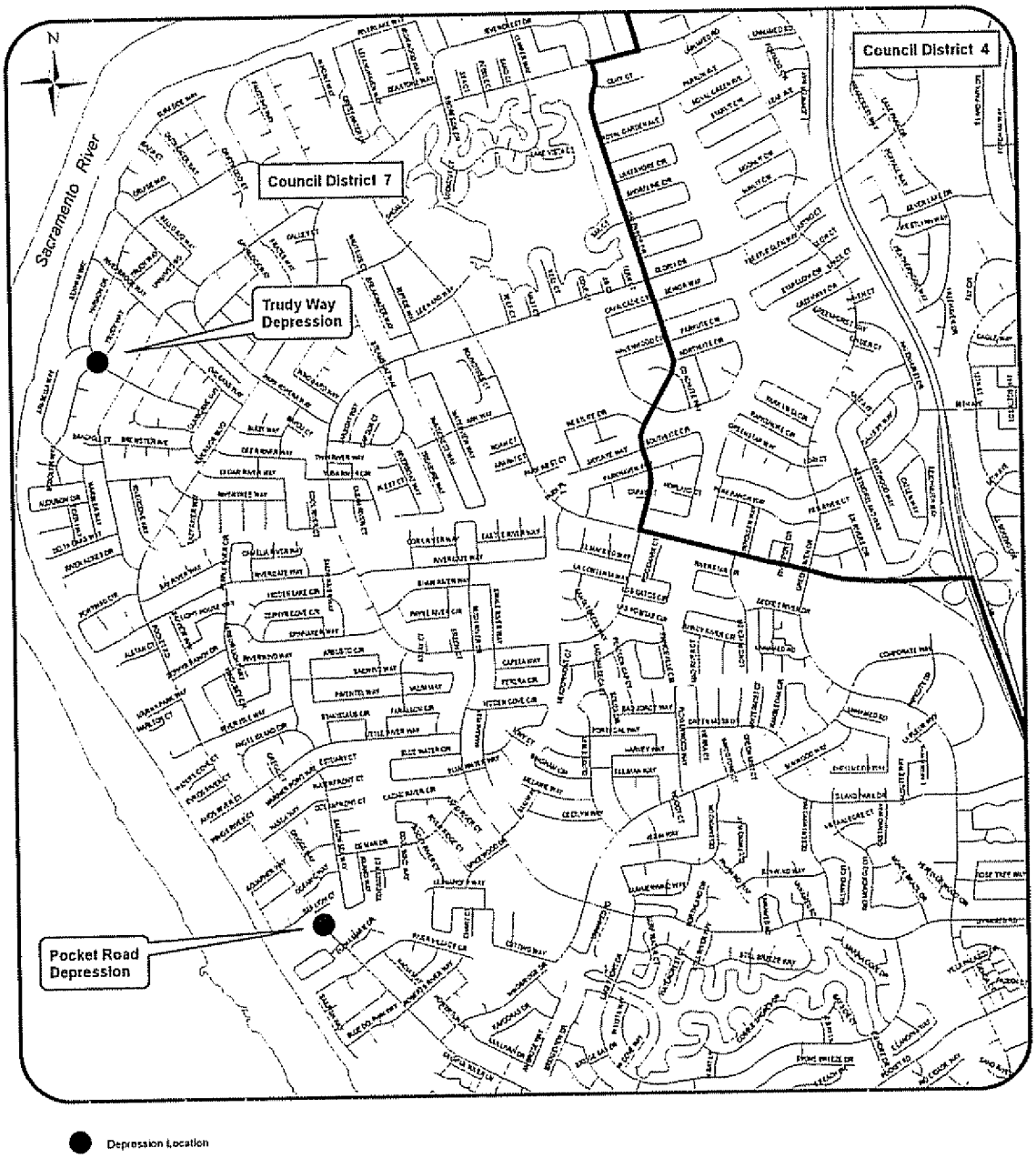
Location Map A



Location Map B