

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**August 18, 2022**

**FRESNO CITY COUNCIL**



**Supplemental Packet**

**ITEM(S)**

**1-J File ID 22-1324**

Actions pertaining to the Orange Avenue and Central Avenue Intersection Improvement Project – Bid File No. 3833 (Council District 3):

1. Adopt a finding of Categorical Exemption per staff determination, pursuant to Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines
2. Award a construction contract in the amount of \$2,582,991 to Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, California

**Contents of Supplement:**

**Staff Report and Environmental Assessment**

**Item(s)**

**Supplemental Information:**

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** SCOTT L. MOZIER, PE, Director  
Public Works Department

**BY:** RANDALL W. MORRISON, PE, Assistant Director  
Public Works Department, Engineering Division

GARINE KENDOYAN, Project Manager  
Public Works Department, Engineering Division

### SUBJECT

**..Title**

Actions pertaining to the Orange Avenue and Central Avenue Intersection Improvement Project – Bid File No. 3833 (Council District 3):

1. Adopt a finding of Categorical Exemption per staff determination, pursuant to Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines
2. Award a construction contract in the amount of \$2,582,991 to Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, California

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### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council (1) adopt a finding of Categorical Exemption pursuant to Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, (2) award a construction contract with Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, California in the amount of \$2,582,991 as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and authorize the Public Works Director or designee to sign the construction contract on behalf of the City of Fresno.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fresno seeks to improve safety and operations of the Central Avenue and Orange Avenue intersection by widening the existing canal box culvert to accommodate new left and right turn lanes. No additional through travel lanes will be added, meaning Central and Orange Avenues will remain two-lane roadways. This project will also modify the existing traffic signal to accommodate the additional turn lanes with protected left turn phasing for improved safety, and will add bicycle lanes at the intersection approaches. Additionally, the proposed improvements will improve pedestrian safety through the intersection by constructing new ADA accessible concrete curb ramps, new crosswalk striping on all four legs of the intersection, new pedestrian countdown heads and pedestrian push buttons for improved walkability. Awarding a construction contract for this project will allow the proposed improvements to be constructed in coordination with the upcoming interruption of water delivery by Fresno Irrigation District (FID) this fall. This project is federally funded with a Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant and New Growth Area Major Street Impact Fees as the local match.

### BACKGROUND

On November 21, 2013, the Council adopted a resolution of support and authorization to apply for several Federal grant applications, through the Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) 2013 Call for Projects. The Council's action included the grant application for the Central and Orange intersection improvements. The design started following the City Council approval of the consultant contract with Peter's Engineering Group, on September 25, 2017.

Each leg of the Central Avenue and Orange Avenue intersection currently has one lane in each direction. The project will widen the intersection to accommodate both left and right turn lanes and widen the existing box culvert in the FID Central No. 23 canal, operated by FID. The project will modify the existing traffic signal to accommodate the additional turn lanes with protected left turn phasing for improved safety. Additionally, the proposed improvements will improve pedestrian safety through the intersection by constructing new ADA accessible concrete curb ramps at the three unimproved corners, add new crosswalk striping on all four legs of the intersection, add new pedestrian countdown heads and pedestrian push buttons. Bicycle safety will also be improved with the addition of bike lane striping and bicycle loop detectors at the intersection. No additional through travel lanes are being incorporated; the focus of the project is including left and right turn lanes for congestion relief, operational improvements, reduced emissions and improved safety for all modes of transportation. Right of way was acquired from APN 330-021-09 for the proposed improvements. No existing trees will be removed by the proposed project.

The Notice Inviting Bids was published in the Business Journal on February 25, 2022 and posted on the City's website. Five sealed bid proposals were received and opened in the public bid opening on June 21, 2022, with bids ranging from \$2,200,796 to \$3,214,296. Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, California is deemed the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The bids will expire 64 days after the bid opening, on August 25, 2022. If the bids are rejected or expire, the project will be rebid resulting in a delay of approximately 10 months, due to the coordination with the FID water delivery season.

The Central Avenue and Orange Avenue intersection improvements project is federally funded with a Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant and the City of Fresno received construction authorization and approval of the project plans, specifications and estimates from Caltrans without the incorporation of the Community Workforce Agreement (PLA). Caltrans and FHWA have not approved the use of the PLA on federal or state funded projects, but City staff continues to request PLA authorization on a project-by-project basis per Caltrans direction.

Staff is recommending the award of a construction contract to Avison Construction, Inc. of Madera, California in the amount of \$2,582,991 to construct the intersection improvements at Central Avenue and Orange Avenue, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and to authorize the Public Works Director or designee to sign and execute the standardized contract on behalf of the City of Fresno.

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved this item as to form.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS**

Staff performed a preliminary environmental assessment of this project and determined that it falls within the Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because the project includes no expansion of an existing use.

## **LOCAL PREFERENCE**

Local preference was not implemented for this project due to it being funded through a Federal STBG program, which precludes local preference.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Central Avenue and Orange Avenue Intersection Improvements Project is located in Council District 3. The overall cost of the project is \$3,350,000 and it is federally funded with a Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant and New Growth Area Street Impact Fees from new development as the local match. Of the overall budget of the project, \$2,582,991 will be used for the construction contract award. The project will have no impact to the General Fund.

### **Attachments:**

Environmental Assessment No. EA – PW00710

Bid Evaluation

Fiscal Impact Statement

Standardized Contract

Vicinity Map

**CITY OF FRESNO  
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. P18-02371**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY  
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

**APPLICANT:** Department of Public Works  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Intersection of South Orange Avenue and East Central Avenue, including the northern side of East Central Avenue to the east of South Orange Avenue in Fresno, California

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The City of Fresno Department of Public Works proposes intersection improvements including: widening the intersection approaches to construct left turn pockets on South Orange Avenue northbound, on East Central Avenue westbound and on East Central Avenue eastbound, as well as a right turn lane on East Central Avenue westbound. The widening would occur on the northern edge of East Central Avenue due to the presence of the Fresno Irrigation District's Central Canal directly to the south. In order to construct a left turn lane on South Orange Avenue northbound, the box culvert crossing through Fresno Irrigation District's Central Canal would be widened. Modification of traffic signal to facilitate protected left turns. Manhole and water valve lids would be raised/lowered, and utility poles would be relocated. Right of way was acquired from APN 330-021-09 for the proposed improvements of this project.

**This project is exempt under Section 15301/Class 1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.**

Staff has performed a preliminary environmental assessment of this project and determined that it falls within the Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301/Class 1 which exempts existing facilities under certain conditions. Staff found that the conditions are met:

**Section 15301/Class 1** consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

Specifically included in this class of exemption are:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety); and

d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.

The proposed project will make improvements to the intersection of South Orange Avenue and East Central Avenue by reconstructing the existing intersection to include left turn lanes and a right turn lane to improve safety at the intersection without increasing roadway capacity. No additional traffic or associated traffic impacts will result from the proposed improvements. The project is consistent with the Fresno General Plan and complies with all conditions described in Section 15301/Class 1 of the California CEQA Guidelines.

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Date: August 12, 2022

Prepared By: Randall Morrison, PE

Submitted by:   
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Assistant Director of Public Works  
City of Fresno  
Public Works Department  
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