



BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY
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Memorandum

TO: BATA Oversight Committee

DATE: July 6, 2016

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1251

RE: Purchase Order – San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Span Dampers Replacement Project – Prototype Procurement: Taylor Devices, Inc. (\$950,000)

This item would authorize the Executive Director or his designee to issue a sole source purchase order to Taylor Devices, Inc. for the procurement of six prototype dampers for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SFOBB) West Span Dampers Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$950,000.

Background

In 2004, as part of the seismic retrofit of the west span of the SFOBB, Caltrans installed 96 viscous dampers along the bridge. The dampers resemble giant shock absorbers for a car and were intended to allow the spans to move freely under everyday service loads like wind, traffic, and temperature and engage during an earthquake to absorb seismic loads (see photo on page 2). Over time, the constant stroking of the dampers due to the ambient movement from thermal expansion and traffic vibrations has accelerated wear on the damper lubricant seals resulting in leakage. Caltrans maintenance staff refill the dampers on a regular basis.

To maintain seismic performance and reduce the maintenance effort, BATA and Caltrans have included a project to replace the 96 dampers in the Toll Bridge Rehabilitation Program. The budgeted cost of the entire replacement project is \$26.4 million. The new dampers are an improved version of the original with matching dimensions and performance characteristics that will allow for direct replacement and continuity with the original seismic retrofit strategy. The improved dampers have a new lost motion device (LMD) designed into them to better account for ambient movement and have a 25-year manufacturer warranty. In addition, BATA staff is requiring the incorporation of external monitors as part of the damper replacement project to improve evaluation of the damper performance. The authorization of funding for the damper replacement project is contingent on the approval of the monitoring system by BATA staff prior to advertisement of the project.

While the manufacturer has fully tested the new dampers, Caltrans and BATA recommend independent testing of prototypes to verify that these improved dampers will meet specifications. Caltrans has requested BATA to assist in the procurement of six prototype dampers for final testing at laboratories at the University of California, San Diego prior to issuance of the final replacement contract later this year. Caltrans plans to competitively award replacement of the 96 dampers. As part of that contract, the dampers will be specified as sole source. Caltrans' current

procurement process cannot accommodate the timely purchase of these six prototypes. Upon completion of the testing, the six prototypes will be stored as spare units. Taylor Devices, Inc., has over 50 years' experience in delivering dampers and has the design needed to produce the prototypes in timely manner. The cost of the six prototype dampers will not exceed \$950,000.

Taylor Devices, Inc. is neither a small business nor a disadvantaged business enterprise and currently has no subcontractors.



Photo of Installation of an Existing Damper

Recommendation

Staff recommends this Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designated representative to issue a sole source purchase order to Taylor Devices, Inc. in amount not to exceed \$950,000 to provide six prototype dampers to Caltrans.


Steve Heminger

SH:sb

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Purchase Order

Work Item No.:	1251
Vendor:	Taylor Devices Inc., North Tonawanda, NY
Work Project Title:	San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Span Dampers Replacement Project – Prototype Procurement
Purpose of Project:	Procure six prototype dampers for testing
Brief Scope of Work:	The proposed project is to procure six prototype dampers for testing prior to replacement of 96 dampers on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge by Caltrans.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	\$950,000
Funding Source:	Toll Bridge Rehabilitation Funds
Fiscal Impact:	Funds are included in the FY 2016-17 Toll Bridge Rehabilitation Program Budget.
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to issue a purchase order to Taylor Devices, Inc. to procure six prototype dampers for testing, as described above and in the Executive Director's memorandum dated July 6, 2016 and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amount of \$950,000 for such purchase order.
BATA Oversight Committee:	<hr/> Amy Rein Worth, Chair
Approved:	Date: July 13, 2016