

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Highway Call Box System Agreement

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 4K

STAFF CONTACT: Kent Epperson

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Acting as the Santa Barbara County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies, approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Maintenance of Highway Call Box Systems with CASE Emergency Systems with a period of performance from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 per year, for a total amount of \$875,000; and
2. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to extend the period of performance in accordance with Section 4 of the Agreement for up to an additional five years.

DISCUSSION:

SBCAG serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for Santa Barbara County and is responsible for the installation, operation and administration of approximately 330 highway callboxes. SAFEs were established by the California legislature to encourage the placement of call boxes along the California Freeway and Expressway System for motorists in need of aid to obtain assistance. The Santa Barbara County call box system is financed entirely by a \$1 per year fee on all motor vehicles registered within the county. The money received by Santa Barbara County (SBC) SAFE must be used to maintain and operate the motorist aid system of call boxes. Any money received which exceeds those costs may be used for additional motorist aid services or support, including providing local match for the Freeway Service Patrol Program in the county.

SBCAG has contracted with CASE Emergency Systems to provide call box maintenance services since 2007. In June 2014, SBCAG amended its contract with Case Systems with options for annual contract renewals through June 30, 2018. On January 17, 2019th the SBCAG Board executed a short term contract with CASE Emergency Systems through June 30, 2019 to give staff time to issue a competitive RFP. Although historically there have been very few other companies interested in managing call box systems in California, staff believed that issuing an RFP in the Spring would help ensure that other potential contractors were able to compete for this contract starting next fiscal year.

On May 6, 2019 SBCAG released an RFP for a Call Box Maintenance contractor. Despite the initial interest by two potential operators to submit a proposal for the work, SBCAG only received a proposal from CASE Emergency Systems. Since their proposal was responsive to all of the RFP requirements and their proposed flat rate of \$39.90 per call box per month is consistent with the current rate adjusted for inflation, staff recommends that the SBCAG execute a contract with

CASE Emergency Systems. CASE Emergency Systems has been a reliable contractor since 2007 and is well known throughout the State of California for its Call Box Maintenance business.

The Highway Call Box Maintenance Agreement includes the following general responsibilities:

- **Corrective Maintenance** - Contractor shall perform corrective maintenance as needed on all call boxes.
- **Preventive Maintenance** - Contractor shall perform the following preventive maintenance tasks (cleaning, checking for worn parts, inspection and anti-corrosion treatment of external electrical connections, operational check of call box controls, at least two (2) times a year, at approximately six-month intervals as necessary to keep call boxes clean and operational).
- **Knockdown and Vandalism Repairs** - Maintenance repairs and/or replacements required as a result of damage by vandalism, or other willful acts, collisions, and other such causes (including insect intrusion) will be performed by Contractor.
- **Temporary Removal and Reinstallation** - At the request of SBC SAFE, Contractor shall remove call boxes from existing locations on an as-needed basis to accommodate freeway construction and other projects that come into conflict with SBC SAFE call boxes. Once a construction project is complete and the call box removal is no longer needed, Contractor shall coordinate reinstallation and deferred installation tasks including permitting, site approval, installation, and reactivation.
- **Special Projects** - Contractor may be requested to conduct special projects throughout the term of the Contract. Special projects may include but are not limited to: installation of new call boxes for SBC SAFE, partner agencies, and other entities; removal or relocation of call boxes due to special circumstances; landline conversion of some call boxes; and/or special site evaluations related to the call box system.
- **Encroachment Permits** - Contractor shall be the primary point of contact for Caltrans permit issues related to system expansion and shall coordinate final field surveys and field review meetings to approve or modify call box locations with Caltrans, CHP, and SBC SAFE.
- **Inventory and Supplies** - SBC SAFE may occasionally buy or sell used call box supplies from/to other vendors and may request Contractor to coordinate sale and delivery of such supplies.
- **Term Extension**. An option to extend the Agreement for an additional 5 years.

The 2018-19 SAFE budget approved in the SBCAG 2018-19 Budget includes sufficient resources to cover the contract budget and thus no additional budget appropriation is required. This action is not a project under CEQA 15378(b)(4) since it is a creation of a governmental funding mechanism.

ATTACHMENT

A: Call Box Maintenance Agreement – CASE Emergency Systems (web posting only)