



March 19, 2026

To: Finance and Administration Committee 
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Agreement for Plumbing Services for the 91 Express Lanes Toll Plaza

Overview

On January 8, 2026, the Orange County Transportation Authority issued an invitation for bids for plumbing services for the 91 Express Lanes toll plaza. Bids were received in accordance with the Orange County Transportation Authority's public works procurement procedures. The Board of Directors' approval is requested to execute the agreement.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-250084 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and California Highway Products, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$224,000, for plumbing services for the 91 Express Lanes toll plaza.

Discussion

The Orange County segment of the 91 Express Lanes (91 EL) is a four-lane, ten-mile tolled facility built in the median of State Route 91 (SR-91) between the State Route 55 (SR-55)/SR-91 interchange and the Orange/Riverside County Line. The 91 EL facility also includes a toll plaza in the median near mile marker 14.633 on SR-91. The toll plaza serves as the staging area for contractors of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to perform maintenance activities for the 91 EL. The facility includes two small employee buildings with restrooms, as well as a storage building. Since acquiring the 91 EL franchise rights in January 2003, OCTA has maintained the 91 EL, including the toll plaza, in good working order.

During the regular invoice review for toll plaza water services, 91 EL staff discovered a possible water leak in the facility. The suspicion was confirmed by the 91 EL roadside contractor. The leak was found in the water main leading from the shutoff valve to the employee facility near the eastbound 91 EL. Since the discovery of the water leak, the water main has been turned off to prevent further waste and potential damage.

The project allows for the necessary plumbing repairs in the 91 EL toll plaza to be completed in a timely manner. Restoring utilities to the facility will allow staff from OCTA's roadside contractor, California Highway Patrol, and the California Department of Transportation to continue using it during 91 EL operations and maintenance activities.

Procurement Approach

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board of Directors-approved procedures for public works projects. These procedures, which conform to both federal and state requirements, require that contracts be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder after a sealed bidding process.

Invitation for Bids (IFB) 250084 was released electronically on January 8, 2026, through OCTA's OpenGov system. The project was advertised on January 8 and January 15, 2026, in a newspaper of general circulation. A pre-bid conference was held on January 20, 2026, and was attended by three firms. Four addenda were issued to provide the pre-bid conference registration sheets, respond to bidders' questions, and handle administrative issues related to the IFB. On February 5, 2026, four bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from the OCTA's Contracts Administration and Materials Management as well as the 91 EL departments to ensure compliance with the contract terms and conditions and technical specifications. The list of bidders and bid amounts is presented below:

<u>Firm and Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
California Highway Products Redlands, California	\$224,000
Pro-Craft Construction, Inc. Redlands, California	\$240,000
Mesa Energy Systems, Inc. Irvine, California	\$254,152

MLC Constructors, Inc. Corona, California	\$385,840
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The OCTA Project Manager's independent cost estimate for this project is \$300,000. The recommended firm's bid is 25 percent lower than the Project Manager's estimate. The contractor has confirmed that the bid price is inclusive of all the requirements of the scope of work for the project.

State law requires an award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. As such, staff recommends award to California Highway Products, the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$224,000, for plumbing services for the 91 EL toll plaza.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the project is approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, Express Lanes Division, Account No. 0036-7610-B0002-CJB, and will utilize local funds.

Summary

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-250084 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and California Highway Products, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$224,000 for the plumbing services for the 91 Express Lanes toll plaza.

Attachment

None.

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