

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 25, 2016

To: Mayor and City Council
Doug Faseler, City Manager

From: Jose (Joe) R. Ramos, Jr., P.E.
City Engineer

Re: Emergency Construction Award – Convent Street Stairwell
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Walnut Branch Ecosystem Restoration and Reforestation Project

The historic Convent Street Hugmann mortared rock stairwell, on the east side of the Walnut Branch, has fallen into a state of disrepair. The stairwell was originally included in the limits of construction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) Walnut Branch Ecosystem Restoration and Reforestation Project (Corps Project). Although originally in the limits of the Corps Project, the Corps was reluctant to proceed with this section of the project until a plan to stabilize the stairwell was developed by the City of Seguin (City). The City requested a proposal from Jacobs Engineering (Jacobs), the design firm for the Corps Project, in order to maintain consistency with the overall project. Jacobs indicated that they had in-house expertise and agreed to provide a proposal for those services. We tried for several months to secure the proposal from Jacobs. They indicated to us, on numerous occasions, that they were about to provide the proposal. Subsequently, the Corps decided to remove that section of bank stabilization and proceed with bidding and awarding the project without that section.

During the construction of the Corps Project, we continued to try to get that section of the project included back into the scope. The Corps considered our request for several months but ultimately decided to not proceed due to the stairwell condition. Subsequently, we have had numerous rain events that have further deteriorated the stairwell significantly, and it appears that the lower section is about to collapse (see attached photos). We have worked with the Hike and Bike contractor (CRG) to formulate a method of unpinning the stairwell and to extend the upstream erosion control measures to ensure continuity from the Convent Street bank stabilization that is proposed to be constructed with the Hike and Bike project.

CRG has agreed to construct the underpinning and erosion control measures, in an effort to stabilize the historically significant stairwell. Therefore, Staff recommends the award of the contract in the amount of \$23,574. Funding will be provided by the budget adjustment the City Council approved budget amendment, this evening.

Cc: Rick Cortes

Susan Caddell
Jack Jones
Nate Garza
Michael Sharp
File