



THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES

Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2025

FROM: CONSTRUCTION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ -
REJECTION OF ALL BIDS
AVALON PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND PROMENADE GATEWAY
SPECIFICATION NO. 2804**

SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that all bids for Specification No. 2804 be rejected and that the Project be re-advertised as it is to the advantage of the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) to do so to avoid bid protest litigation that could jeopardize the grant funding and to ensure the most competitive bids and lowest cost to the Harbor Department. The Avalon Pedestrian Bridge and Promenade Gateway (Project) will connect the Wilmington Community to Wilmington Waterfront Promenade and Banning's Landing Community Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action has been previously evaluated pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(i) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Reject all bids for Specification No. 2804 and authorize the Executive Director to re-advertise the Project; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Project Objectives - The Project will construct a pedestrian bridge to connect the Wilmington Community, which has eight schools within one mile, to the Port of Los Angeles (Port) Wilmington Waterfront area and Banning's Landing Community Center. Currently, two freight mainline tracks in the Port bifurcate the Wilmington Waterfront from

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the Wilmington community itself. The rail tracks being grade separated move 6 percent of all U.S. waterborne containers. The Project will provide a dedicated pedestrian/cycling bridge over these freight rail tracks and connect to the State-designated California Coast Trail. The Project will also improve pedestrian connectivity from Wilmington to the Waterfront at Banning's Landing Community Center. The Project provides pedestrian enhancements, as well as developing neighborhood and regional recreational space along Avalon Boulevard from Harry Bridges Boulevard to the Wilmington Waterfront Promenade.

This Project has been approved to receive a total of \$57,287,400 from three grant funding sources: LACMTA under Measure M funding, CalSTA under PFIP, USDOT under the RCN program.

Project Description – This Project includes construction of a concrete cable supported pedestrian bridge and promenade gateway. Work includes but is not limited to installation of prestressed concrete pile foundations, retaining wall, architectural features and finishes, site demolition and removals, grading, surcharge, landscaping, hardscaping, construction of a restroom, lighting, striping, signage, parking lots, and play areas.

Construction Award Process - City of Los Angeles Charter Section 371 (a) - Competitive Bidding sets forth the procedure staff followed to award the Contract. For construction contracts such as this one, the Harbor Department publishes the Notice Inviting Bids in daily newspapers and trade publications circulated in the City of Los Angeles, as well as on the Port of Los Angeles website and the Regional Alliance Marketplace for Procurement (RAMP). The Harbor Department also conducts a pre-bid conference to answer questions related to the construction contract.

Bidders submit bids through the Harbor Department's Construction Division Business Opportunity Network (CDBON) System. The opportunity to submit bids closes once a predetermined time is reached. After bid closing, bid documents, Small Business Enterprise (SBE) and Very Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) participation, and other required documents are reviewed for compliance with Harbor Department requirements. Once all the information is verified, and if the lowest bidder is deemed responsive, a recommendation for the award of the construction contract is made. If the apparent lowest bidder is found non-responsive, the next lowest bidder is reviewed.

In conformance with the City Charter section for competitive bidding, as stated above, the Notice of Inviting Bids for Specification No. 2804 was advertised on the Port of Los Angeles website, Daily Breeze, La Opinion, Chinese Daily News, Dodge Construction "Green Sheet", Metropolitan News Company, and in the Los Angeles Business Assistance Virtual Network to reach out to as many potential bidders as possible. A pre-bid meeting was held on September 4, 2025.

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As authorized by the Executive Director on August 13, 2025, the Chief Harbor Engineer received three bids for the Contract on October 21, 2025. Griffith Company (Griffith) was declared the apparent lowest bidder with a bid of \$104,929,891. The analysis of bid results with the companies and their respective bid amounts are included in Transmittal 1.

Reason for Rejection of Bids – Specification No. 2804 includes City of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15, which reserves the right to reject all bids when to do so would be to the advantage of the City. Staff recommend that it is to the advantage of the Harbor Department to reject all bids and re-advertise this Project for the following reasons:

- After the bid opening, staff evaluated Griffith's bid and determined there were irregularities in Griffith's bid proposal and found that Griffith did not submit all the required supplemental documents within the required four days after notification from the Harbor Department. Subsequently, we received a protest letter from the second lowest bidder, Sully-Miller Contracting Co. (Sully-Miller), requesting that the bid from Griffith be rejected for failing to follow the bidding instructions (Transmittal 2).
- Staff also analyzed the bid for the second lowest bidder, Sully-Miller, following a protest by Griffith requesting that the bid from Sully-Miller be rejected, and found that Sully-Miller did not submit all the required supplemental documents within the required four days after notification from the Harbor Department and there were irregularities in Sully-Miller's bid (Transmittal 3).
- The third lowest bidder, Skanska, did not meet the minimum SBE/VSBE requirements.

After careful evaluation of the bids and consultation with the City Attorney, staff recommend that it is to the advantage of the City to reject all bids to avoid bid protest litigation that could jeopardize the grant funding and to ensure the most competitive bid and lowest cost to the Harbor Department.

In anticipation of the rejection of all bids, re-advertisement would occur in December 2025.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the rejection of all bids for construction of the Avalon Pedestrian Bridge and Promenade Gateway Project. As an administrative activity, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action has been previously evaluated pursuant to the requirements of CEQA under Article II, Section 2(i) of the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial impacts associated with rejection of all bids.


CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved Specification No. 2804 as to form and legality on July 2, 2025.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Analysis of Bids
2. Sully-Miller Protest and Response Letters
3. Griffith Protest and Response Letters

FIS Approval: JS
CA Approval: SO

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Chief Harbor Engineer


DINA ARYAN-ZAHLAN, PE
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:

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Executive Director

SS:KG:lh
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