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Supplemental water contract

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Construction of a supplemental water pipeline in Santa Maria is back underway this month following Nipomo Community Services District directors' approval of a new contract.

At a special meeting Sept. 3, the board awarded a \$1.6 million contract to D-Kal Engineering Inc. of San Luis Obispo to construct a main water line along North Blosser Road that will connect Santa Maria's water system to a pipeline already installed beneath the Santa Maria River.

The engineer's estimate for the work was \$2 million, according to NCSD documents, and the cost of the contract is within the original budget for the project.

Installation of the North Blosser Road water main is part of the first phase of a project that will initially deliver 645 acre-feet of water purchased from Santa Maria to NCSD's water system on the Nipomo Mesa.

NCSD approved a \$3 million contract for the work with Specialty Construction Inc. of San Luis Obispo in June 2013, but issues that arose after construction began prompted the district to terminate that contract, bringing the work to a halt.

Since then, the bid documents were revised to include additional elements required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and city of Santa Maria.

Other revisions involved the procedure for connecting the water main to the high-density polyethylene pipeline under the river and coordinating with another first phase contractor.

Seven companies bid on the revised contract, including Specialty Construction and Spiess Construction Co. Inc. of Santa Maria, which is building the pipeline facilities on the north side of the river.

D-Kal, the apparent low bidder, is expected to complete the pipeline installation in January.

NCSD expects to begin delivering supplemental water to the Nipomo Mesa around July 1.