

Assembly Bill No. 195

CHAPTER 121

An act to amend Section 20133 of the Public Contract Code, relating to public contracts, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor August 19, 2013. Filed with
Secretary of State August 19, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 195, Hall. Counties: construction projects: design-build.

Existing law, until July 1, 2014, authorizes counties to use alternative procedures, known as design-build, for bidding on specified types of construction projects in the county in excess of \$2,500,000, in accordance with specified procedures. These procedures include a requirement for contracts awarded after a certain date that a county board of supervisors pay a fee into the State Public Works Enforcement Fund, which funds are continuously appropriated for the Department of Industrial Relations' enforcement of prevailing wage requirements on public works projects. These procedures also require specified information to be verified under oath.

This bill would extend these provisions until July 1, 2016. Because the additionally authorized projects would require payment of fees into the State Public Works Enforcement Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, it would make an appropriation. Also, because the bill would authorize additional contracts to be awarded under these provisions, which would be subject to the requirement that certain information be verified under oath, it would impose a state-mandated local program by expanding the scope of an existing crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 20133 of the Public Contract Code is amended to read:

20133. (a) A county, with approval of the board of supervisors, may utilize an alternative procedure for bidding on construction projects in the county in excess of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000)

and may award the project using either the lowest responsible bidder or by best value.

(b) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to enable counties to utilize design-build for buildings and county sanitation wastewater treatment facilities. It is not the intent of the Legislature to authorize this procedure for other infrastructure, including, but not limited to, streets and highways, public rail transit, or water resources facilities and infrastructures.

(2) The Legislature also finds and declares that utilizing a design-build contract requires a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each participant in the design-build process.

(3) (A) For contracts for public works projects awarded prior to the effective date of regulations adopted by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 1771.5 of the Labor Code, if the board of supervisors elects to proceed under this section, the board of supervisors shall establish and enforce a labor compliance program containing the requirements outlined in Section 1771.5 of the Labor Code, or it shall contract with a third party to operate a labor compliance program containing the requirements outlined in Section 1771.5 of the Labor Code. This requirement shall not apply to any projects where the county or the design-build entity has entered into a collective bargaining agreement that binds all of the contractors performing work on the projects.

(B) For contracts for public works projects awarded on or after the effective date of regulations adopted by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 1771.5 of the Labor Code, the board of supervisors shall reimburse the department for its reasonable and directly related costs of performing prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement on public works projects pursuant to rates established by the department as set forth in subdivision (h) of Section 1771.5 of the Labor Code. All moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the State Public Works Enforcement Fund created by Section 1771.3 of the Labor Code, and shall be used only for enforcement of prevailing wage requirements on those projects.

(C) In lieu of reimbursing the Department of Industrial Relations for its reasonable and directly related costs of performing monitoring and enforcement on public works projects, the board of supervisors may elect to continue operating an existing previously approved labor compliance program to monitor and enforce prevailing wage requirements on the project if it has either not contracted with a third party to conduct its labor compliance program and requests and receives approval from the department to continue its existing program or it enters into a collective bargaining agreement that binds all of the contractors performing work on the project and that includes a mechanism for resolving disputes about the payment of wages.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) “Best value” means a value determined by objective criteria related to price, features, functions, and life-cycle costs.

(2) “Design-build” means a procurement process in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity.

(3) “Design-build entity” means a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that is able to provide appropriately licensed contracting, architectural, and engineering services as needed pursuant to a design-build contract.

(4) “Project” means the construction of a building and improvements directly related to the construction of a building, and county sanitation wastewater treatment facilities, but does not include the construction of other infrastructure, including, but not limited to, streets and highways, public rail transit, or water resources facilities and infrastructure.

(d) Design-build projects shall progress in a four-step process, as follows:

(1) (A) The county shall prepare a set of documents setting forth the scope of the project. The documents may include, but are not limited to, the size, type, and desired design character of the public improvement, performance specifications covering the quality of materials, equipment, and workmanship, preliminary plans or building layouts, or any other information deemed necessary to describe adequately the county’s needs. The performance specifications and any plans shall be prepared by a design professional who is duly licensed and registered in California.

(B) Any architect or engineer retained by the county to assist in the development of the project-specific documents shall not be eligible to participate in the preparation of a bid with any design-build entity for that project.

(2) (A) Based on the documents prepared in paragraph (1), the county shall prepare a request for proposals that invites interested parties to submit competitive sealed proposals in the manner prescribed by the county. The request for proposals shall include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

(i) Identification of the basic scope and needs of the project or contract, the expected cost range, and other information deemed necessary by the county to inform interested parties of the contracting opportunity, to include the methodology that will be used by the county to evaluate proposals and specifically if the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

(ii) Significant objective factors that the county reasonably expects to consider in evaluating proposals, including cost or price and all nonprice-related factors.

(iii) The relative importance of weight assigned to each of the factors identified in the request for proposals.

(B) With respect to clause (iii) of subparagraph (A), if a nonweighted system is used, the agency shall specifically disclose whether all evaluation factors other than cost or price when combined are:

(i) Significantly more important than cost or price.

(ii) Approximately equal in importance to cost or price.

(iii) Significantly less important than cost or price.

(C) If the county chooses to reserve the right to hold discussions or negotiations with responsive bidders, it shall so specify in the request for proposal and shall publish separately or incorporate into the request for

proposal applicable rules and procedures to be observed by the county to ensure that any discussions or negotiations are conducted in good faith.

(3) (A) The county shall establish a procedure to prequalify design-build entities using a standard questionnaire developed by the county. In preparing the questionnaire, the county shall consult with the construction industry, including representatives of the building trades and surety industry. This questionnaire shall require information, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(i) If the design-build entity is a partnership, limited partnership, or other association, a listing of all of the partners, general partners, or association members known at the time of bid submission who will participate in the design-build contract, including, but not limited to, mechanical subcontractors.

(ii) Evidence that the members of the design-build entity have completed, or demonstrated the experience, competency, capability, and capacity to complete, projects of similar size, scope, or complexity, and that proposed key personnel have sufficient experience and training to competently manage and complete the design and construction of the project, as well as a financial statement that assures the county that the design-build entity has the capacity to complete the project.

(iii) The licenses, registration, and credentials required to design and construct the project, including information on the revocation or suspension of any license, credential, or registration.

(iv) Evidence that establishes that the design-build entity has the capacity to obtain all required payment and performance bonding, liability insurance, and errors and omissions insurance.

(v) Any prior serious or willful violation of the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973, contained in Part 1 (commencing with Section 6300) of Division 5 of the Labor Code, or the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596), settled against any member of the design-build entity, and information concerning workers' compensation experience history and worker safety program.

(vi) Information concerning any debarment, disqualification, or removal from a federal, state, or local government public works project. Any instance in which an entity, its owners, officers, or managing employees submitted a bid on a public works project and were found to be nonresponsive, or were found by an awarding body not to be a responsible bidder.

(vii) Any instance in which the entity, or its owners, officers, or managing employees, defaulted on a construction contract.

(viii) Any violations of the Contractors' State License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code), excluding alleged violations of federal or state law including the payment of wages, benefits, apprenticeship requirements, or personal income tax withholding, or of Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA; 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3101 et seq.) withholding requirements settled against any member of the design-build entity.

(ix) Information concerning the bankruptcy or receivership of any member of the design-build entity, including information concerning any work completed by a surety.

(x) Information concerning all settled adverse claims, disputes, or lawsuits between the owner of a public works project and any member of the design-build entity during the five years preceding submission of a bid pursuant to this section, in which the claim, settlement, or judgment exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). Information shall also be provided concerning any work completed by a surety during this period.

(xi) In the case of a partnership or an association that is not a legal entity, a copy of the agreement creating the partnership or association and specifying that all partners or association members agree to be fully liable for the performance under the design-build contract.

(xii) (I) Any instance in which the entity, or any of its members, owners, officers, or managing employees was, during the five years preceding submission of a bid pursuant to this section, determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have submitted, or legally admitted for purposes of a criminal plea to have submitted either of the following:

(ia) Any claim to any public agency or official in violation of the federal False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. Sec. 3729 et seq.).

(ib) Any claim to any public official in violation of the California False Claims Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 12650) of Chapter 6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of the Government Code).

(II) Information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall include the name and number of any case filed, the court in which it was filed, and the date on which it was filed. The entity may also provide further information regarding any such instance, including any mitigating or extenuating circumstances that the entity wishes the county to consider.

(B) The information required pursuant to this subdivision shall be verified under oath by the entity and its members in the manner in which civil pleadings in civil actions are verified. Information that is not a public record pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) shall not be open to public inspection.

(4) The county shall establish a procedure for final selection of the design-build entity. Selection shall be based on either of the following criteria:

(A) A competitive bidding process resulting in lump-sum bids by the prequalified design-build entities. Awards shall be made to the lowest responsible bidder.

(B) A county may use a design-build competition based upon best value and other criteria set forth in paragraph (2). The design-build competition shall include the following elements:

(i) Competitive proposals shall be evaluated by using only the criteria and selection procedures specifically identified in the request for proposal. However, the following minimum factors shall each represent at least 10 percent of the total weight of consideration given to all criteria factors: price,

technical design, and construction expertise, life-cycle costs over 15 years or more, skilled labor force availability, and acceptable safety record.

(ii) Once the evaluation is complete, the top three responsive bidders shall be ranked sequentially from the most advantageous to the least.

(iii) The award of the contract shall be made to the responsible bidder whose proposal is determined, in writing, to be the most advantageous.

(iv) Notwithstanding any provision of this code, upon issuance of a contract award, the county shall publicly announce its award, identifying the contractor to whom the award is made, along with a written decision supporting its contract award and stating the basis of the award. The notice of award shall also include the county's second and third ranked design-build entities.

(v) For purposes of this paragraph, "skilled labor force availability" shall be determined by the existence of an agreement with a registered apprenticeship program, approved by the California Apprenticeship Council, which has graduated apprentices in each of the preceding five years. This graduation requirement shall not apply to programs providing apprenticeship training for any craft that has been deemed by the Department of Labor and the Department of Industrial Relations to be an apprenticeable craft in the five years prior to enactment of this act.

(vi) For purposes of this paragraph, a bidder's "safety record" shall be deemed "acceptable" if its experience modification rate for the most recent three-year period is an average of 1.00 or less, and its average total recordable injury/illness rate and average lost work rate for the most recent three-year period does not exceed the applicable statistical standards for its business category or if the bidder is a party to an alternative dispute resolution system as provided for in Section 3201.5 of the Labor Code.

(e) (1) Any design-build entity that is selected to design and build a project pursuant to this section shall possess or obtain sufficient bonding to cover the contract amount for nondesign services, and errors and omission insurance coverage sufficient to cover all design and architectural services provided in the contract. This section does not prohibit a general or engineering contractor from being designated the lead entity on a design-build entity for the purposes of purchasing necessary bonding to cover the activities of the design-build entity.

(2) Any payment or performance bond written for the purposes of this section shall be written using a bond form developed by the county.

(f) All subcontractors that were not listed by the design-build entity in accordance with clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) shall be awarded by the design-build entity in accordance with the design-build process set forth by the county in the design-build package. All subcontractors bidding on contracts pursuant to this section shall be afforded the protections contained in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 4100) of Part 1. The design-build entity shall do both of the following:

(1) Provide public notice of the availability of work to be subcontracted in accordance with the publication requirements applicable to the competitive bidding process of the county.

(2) Provide a fixed date and time on which the subcontracted work will be awarded in accordance with the procedure established pursuant to this section.

(g) Lists of subcontractors, bidders, and bid awards relating to the project shall be submitted by the design-build entity to the awarding body within 14 days of the award. These documents are deemed to be public records and shall be available for public inspection pursuant to this chapter and Article 1 (commencing with Section 6250) of Chapter 3.5 of Division 7 of the Government Code.

(h) The minimum performance criteria and design standards established pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) shall be adhered to by the design-build entity. Any deviations from those standards may only be allowed by written consent of the county.

(i) The county may retain the services of a design professional or construction project manager, or both, throughout the course of the project in order to ensure compliance with this section.

(j) Contracts awarded pursuant to this section shall be valid until the project is completed.

(k) Nothing in this section is intended to affect, expand, alter, or limit any rights or remedies otherwise available at law.

(l) (1) If the county elects to award a project pursuant to this section, retention proceeds withheld by the county from the design-build entity shall not exceed 5 percent if a performance and payment bond, issued by an admitted surety insurer, is required in the solicitation of bids.

(2) In a contract between the design-build entity and the subcontractor, and in a contract between a subcontractor and any subcontractor thereunder, the percentage of the retention proceeds withheld may not exceed the percentage specified in the contract between the county and the design-build entity. If the design-build entity provides written notice to any subcontractor who is not a member of the design-build entity, prior to or at the time the bid is requested, that a bond may be required and the subcontractor subsequently is unable or refuses to furnish a bond to the design-build entity, then the design-build entity may withhold retention proceeds in excess of the percentage specified in the contract between the county and the design-build entity from any payment made by the design-build entity to the subcontractor.

(m) Each county that elects to proceed under this section and uses the design-build method on a public works project shall submit to the Legislative Analyst's Office before September 1, 2013, a report containing a description of each public works project procured through the design-build process and completed after November 1, 2009, and before August 1, 2013. The report shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following information:

- (1) The type of project.
- (2) The gross square footage of the project.

- (3) The design-build entity that was awarded the project.
- (4) The estimated and actual length of time to complete the project.
- (5) The estimated and actual project costs.
- (6) Whether the project was met or altered.
- (7) The number and amount of project change orders.
- (8) A description of any written protests concerning any aspect of the solicitation, bid, proposal, or award of the design-build project, including the resolution of the protests.
- (9) An assessment of the prequalification process and criteria.
- (10) An assessment of the effect of retaining 5 percent retention on the project.
- (11) A description of the Labor Force Compliance Program and an assessment of the project impact, where required.
- (12) A description of the method used to award the contract. If best value was the method, the report shall describe the factors used to evaluate the bid, including the weighting of each factor and an assessment of the effectiveness of the methodology.
- (13) An assessment of the project impact of “skilled labor force availability.”
- (14) An assessment of the design-build dollar limits on county projects. This assessment shall include projects where the county wanted to use design-build and was precluded by the dollar limitation. This assessment shall also include projects where the best value method was not used due to dollar limitations.
- (15) An assessment of the most appropriate uses for the design-build approach.
 - (n) Any county that elects not to use the authority granted by this section may submit a report to the Legislative Analyst’s Office explaining why the county elected not to use the design-build method.
 - (o) On or before January 1, 2014, the Legislative Analyst shall report to the Legislature on the use of the design-build method by counties pursuant to this section, including the information listed in subdivisions (m) and (p). The report may include recommendations for modifying or extending this section.
 - (p) The Legislative Analyst shall complete a fact-based analysis of the use of the design-build method by counties pursuant to this section, utilizing the information provided pursuant to subdivision (m) and any independent information provided by the public or interested parties. The Legislative Analyst shall select a representative sample of projects under this section and review available public records and reports, media reports, and related information in its analysis. The Legislative Analyst shall compile the information required to be analyzed pursuant to this subdivision into a report, which shall be provided to the Legislature. The report shall include conclusions describing the actual cost of projects procured pursuant to this section, whether the project schedule was met or altered, and whether projects needed or used project change orders.

(q) Except as provided in this section, this act shall not be construed to affect the application of any other law.

(r) This section shall remain in effect only until July 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before July 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.