



CARPENTERS UNION LOCAL 217 SAN MATEO COUNTY

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May 4, 2020

City of San Mateo
City Hall 330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

Via email: clerk@cityofsanmateo.org

Re: City of San Mateo, City Council Regular Meeting of May 4, 2020, Agenda Number 9 Underground Flow Equalization System Project – Construction Contract.

Dear Mayor Goethals and Members of the City Council,

Please accept this letter on behalf of members of Carpenters Union Local 217, which represents working men and women in the City of San Mateo. We are writing to you today to express our disappointment and quite frankly, our outrage that the city intends to basically “give” the above referenced project to what amounts to a hand-picked contractor of the city’s choice. We feel very strongly that the normal and customary competitive bidding process was eschewed for a back room “negotiation”, brokered by an unelected city department head. You may be convinced that this is technically legal, but it is hardly normal and in our opinion, highly unethical. As you know, Local 217 monitors local construction projects to help ensure that fair and open competitive bidding practices are utilized and that taxpayers get the best value for their tax dollars. The policies underlying our State’s competitive bidding laws not only foster fairness among bidders, but also protect the public trust. We respectfully submit that that trust has fallen into question as a result of this intended contract. You are setting a very dangerous precedent as you are essentially saying to future bidders, “In San Mateo – just come in low, and even if we don’t like your price, we’ll toss out your competition and work something out with you, behind closed doors.” You are not inviting fair, competitive bidding. You are stifling it and in so doing, you are leaving local workers and apprentices out in the cold. We ask that you immediately throw out all bids and re-bid the project fairly, openly, and ethically. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Edward Evans, Field Representative

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