



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Brandon Robinson, Electrical Engineering Supervisor
Art Vela, Public Works Director

MEETING DATE: May 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2026-77, Approving the Professional Services Agreement with Cornerstone Utility Engineering

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-77

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning Electric Utility Department (BEU) staff currently administers an array of services including management of capital improvement and infrastructure projects related to the design and construction of electric power distribution systems. In addition to managing these projects, staff is also responsible for completing design review and inspections for various projects completed by BEU and the City's Public Works Department. To maintain an acceptable level of service, BEU executed a contract with Cornerstone Development Company through Resolution 2023-138 for professional engineering services to assist with completing engineering design for the BEU's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Since the execution of the original contract, the Cornerstone Development Company has since been renamed to Cornerstone Utility Engineering ("Cornerstone").

The scope of services requested will include but not be limited to project management, engineering and design, environmental review and permitting, assistance with procurement of materials and equipment, and engineering services during construction for the following existing CIP projects already in design with Cornerstone:

- Sun Lakes Blvd Extension Project
- Mias Canyon Line Hardening Project
- Robertson's Ready Mix Pole Relocation
- Lincoln Street 34.5kV Circuit Re-Route

The recommendation to execute a new professional agreement was presented by staff to the Banning City Management and Finance staff and a case was made by BEU to continue the working relationship with Cornerstone to assist with the completion of the ongoing BEU's capital improvement program due to Cornerstone being the engineer of record. The previous contract (Resolution 2023-138) with Cornerstone expired with a remaining amount of \$302,250, however the requested amount for the new contract has been reduced to \$100,000 to cover expenses related to the engineering support for the four CIP projects that have been identified. A Sole Source Justification was provided to Purchasing from BEU staff to justify the need for consistency and continuity with ongoing BEU projects. Staff recommends approving a new Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$100,000 with services ending two years following the execution of the contract.

JUSTIFICATION:

Cornerstone Utility Engineering has proven to be a responsible contractor that has effectively and successfully provided professional design engineering services for BEU's CIP projects. It is essential that the City preserves this relationship for current projects that are administered by BEU and the Cornerstone team being the engineer of record in the design and engineering of the City's 4 existing CIP projects. This recommendation was provided in the Sole Source Justification from BEU staff.

If approved, this Professional Services Agreement will allow Cornerstone to carry out professional services in support of the select ongoing BEU projects through completion. BEU intends to solicit a new Request for Proposals ("RFP") for qualified engineering firms to assist with the BEU's future capital improvement demands.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Total costs over the two-year agreement shall not exceed a contract value of \$100,000. The work will be funded by the Electric Improvement Fund 673, via savings that will be transferred from accounts with unused budgets. No additional appropriations are being requested at this time. The consultant will invoice the City on a monthly basis so long as funded contract tasks have been completed, with an itemized list of work performed, along with delivery of the specific work products.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [CC Resolution No. 2026-77.docx](#)
2. [Contract No. C01267 Cornerstone Utility Engineering - Engineering Services.pdf](#)
3. [CC Resolution No. 2023-138.pdf](#)