

Title:		Contents:	P-2900
PUBLIC WORKS		Submitted By:	Purchasing Division
		Approved By:	Purchasing Agent
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Policy

The Purchasing Agent’s authority for public works contracting is \$10,000 (materials and labor) with a maximum of \$6,500 for labor (Public Contract Code 20131). Competitive bidding as defined by the Public Contract Code is not required.

Public Works

Public Works is the construction, painting or repair of buildings, arenas, permanently installed light fixtures, jail cells, elevators, (including repairs if labor over 30%), steam radiators, built-in storage space, original electric lamps, utility connections, except hookup by public utility, and walls and fences in conjunction with a public works project. The Department of Public Works should be consulted to perform work of this nature.

Competitive Bidding

Although it is the policy of the Purchasing Agent to purchase by a competitive bid process, it is not "competitive bidding" as defined in the Public Contract Code. Therefore, ISD’s bid process does not satisfy the Public Contract Code requirements.

Competitive bidding as prescribed by the Public Contract Code includes the preparation of detailed plans and specifications by the Public Works Department or by an Architect/Engineer, advertising for bids by the Board of Supervisors in a newspaper of general circulation, award by the Board of Supervisors on recommendation of the department, and many other requirements.

The Purchasing Agent, for the most part, works from less formal specifications, mails bids to and accepts offers from a selected list of possible bidders and makes awards without ratification by any other County authority.