

Safety project coming to fruition

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / July 17, 2024

The first phase of a construction project to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety to and from Valley Springs Elementary School will begin shortly after the school year starts July 24.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors last week unanimously approved a \$1.45 million contract with general contractor George Reed Inc. for the Valley Springs School Safety Improvements Project.

George Reed Inc. Was the lone bidder on the project, but county staff determined the bid “to be responsive and responsible” in its recommendation to approve the contract.

A similar project was completed several years ago to and from the Jenny Lind Elementary School.

Phase one of the two phase project includes road improvements along Pine Street between Daphne Street and Sequoia Avenue and along Sequoia between Pine and Laurel streets. Circulation and safety improvements include installation of paved multi-use shoulders, sidewalk, designated curb-side drop-off/pick-up zones, and a pedestrian-actuated flashing beacon for the Pine Street crosswalk at the intersection of Daphne Street.

Construction is anticipated to begin in early August and completed within 40 working days.

The project is within Supervisorial District 1 and Gary Tofanelli, supervisor for the district, asked county staff at the July 9 board meeting to reach out to nearby residents in advance and let the know what’s going.

Federal and state funds will finance the project.

County officials are also working closely with school district officials.