



**BOLTON
& MENK**

Real People. Real Solutions.

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January 24, 2017

Board of Supervisors
Palo Alto County Courthouse
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Re: Engineer's Report
2014 Flood Damages Repairs
Drainage District No. 80 Branch F

To the Board Members and Landowners in the Drainage District:

Background. The very heavy rains of June 2014 damaged several drainage district open ditches in Palo Alto County. It resulted in a presidential disaster declaration for a broad area which included Palo Alto County. Drainage Districts in the county had three or four times before secured funding from this source for the repair of damages incurred during disasters. In order to position drainage districts with eligible damages to be able to apply for disaster recovery cost share funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from the State Department of Homeland Security the board directed Bolton & Menk, Inc. to assess open ditches selected by the county engineer for possible damages and to assist the board in applying for funding as may be needed.

The Drainage District No. 80 Branch F main open ditch was one of approximately 24 ditches reviewed. Ultimately, applications for disaster recovery funding assistance was filed for nine drainage districts. Eligible projects would receive cost share of 75% federal and 10% state for the costs of the repairs to the public drainage facilities plus partial funding for engineering and administration. Drainage District No. 80 Branch F reported \$80,650 in damages.

The board was surprised by an initial FEMA decision that the repairs were not eligible, as identical repairs were eligible in prior disaster recoveries. The denial decision had been based upon an interpretation of the FEMA rules which required regular maintenance of the ditches and regular review. Regular was strictly interpreted to mean annually. The repairs were delayed awaiting the results of the appeals. Unfortunately the appeal is still ongoing although a final appeal decision is anticipated soon.

The board has determined to proceed with a public hearing that would be required if funding assistance is not secured so that the district can be put in a good position to receive bids for the work. Doing the work before funding assistance is secured will not affect the district's eligibility for funding assistance from either agency.

Damages. The open ditch of Drainage District No. 80 Branch F suffered extensive damage during and immediately following the June 2014 storms. These damages are described and tabulated in the first attachment to this letter report.

Proposed Work. Attached to this report is a summary of the identified disaster recovery repairs that were submitted to federal and state officials for cost share assistance. The locations of these repair sites are shown on the accompanying map. An estimate of the cost of accomplishing these repairs is presented in the same attachment. We recommend that these repairs be accomplished. We further recommend that the district also make similar bank and pipe repairs that will likely be discovered during the work.

Estimated Cost. This cost estimate is based upon bids received for similar projects of which we are familiar and we believe it to be conservative. However, no guarantee is made or implied.

Drainage District No. 80 Branch F Open Ditch

Disaster-recovery repairs (2014)	\$ 80,650
Inflation Adjustment	<u>8,065</u>
Construction Subtotal	\$ 88,715
Construction-related Damages	4,000
FEMA Assessment and Administration	5,300
Engineering Services thru Public Hearing	3,000
Bid Letting Services	2,500
Construction Staking, Observation & Admin.	12,000
Legal, Publications and Admin.	3,000
Contingency	<u>5,000</u>
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$123,515
Potential Funding Assistance	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Potential Net Cost	\$ 48,515

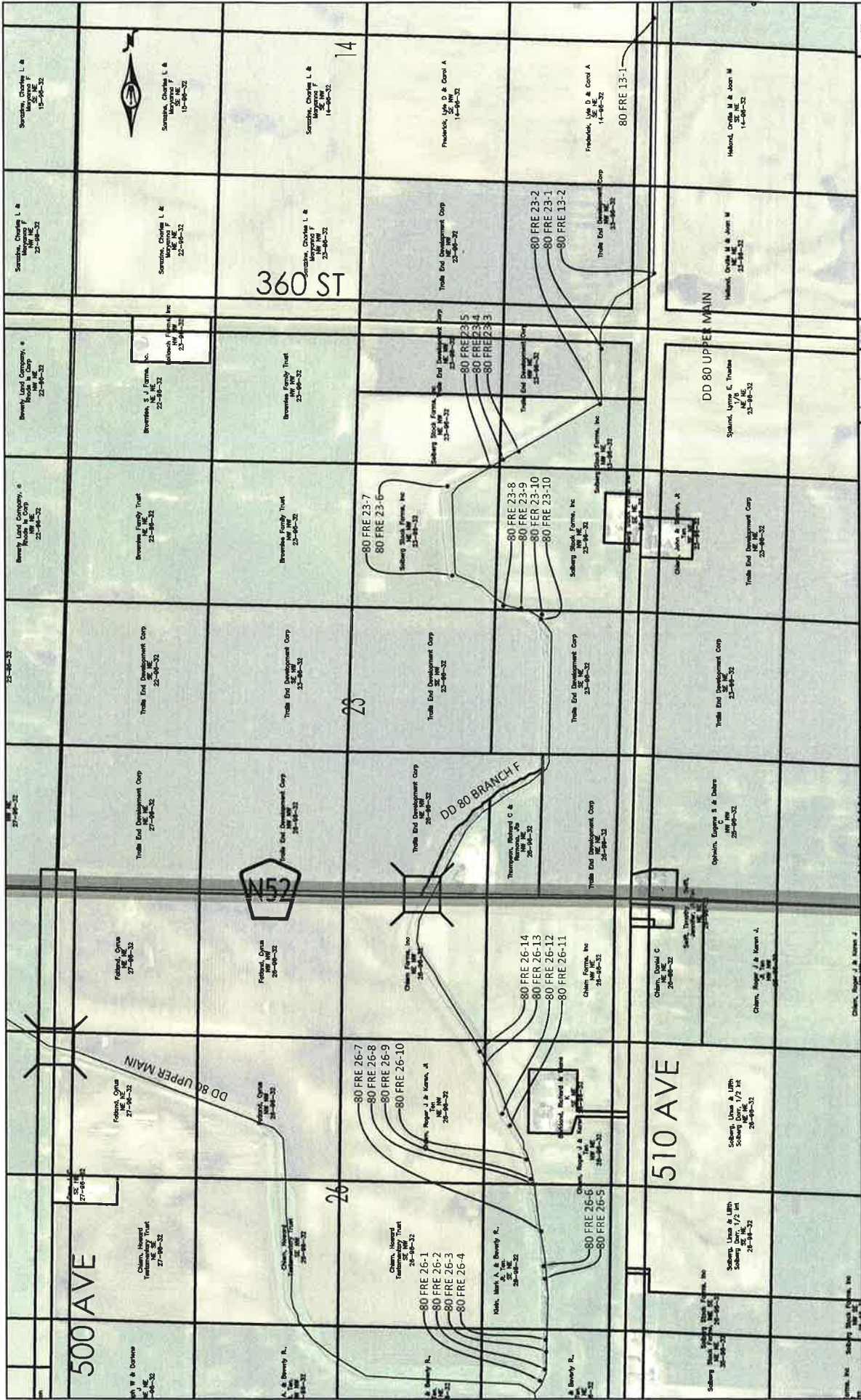
Respectfully submitted

Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Donald D. Etler, P.E.
Senior Project Manager



Attachments (2)



2014 FEMA REPAIRS
PAID ALTO COUNTY, IOWA

DD 80 BRANCH F FEMA LOCATIONS

NO.	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	05/15/14	ROS	ISSUED
2	05/15/14	ROS	REVISED
3	05/15/14	ROS	REVISED

BOLTON & MENK

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SCALE: 1" = 200'

DATE: 05/15/14

PROJECT: DD 80 BRANCH F FEMA LOCATIONS