

STERLING CONSTRUCTION CO INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 11, 2009

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark one)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended: March 31, 2009

Or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_

Commission file number 1-31993

STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
State or other jurisdiction of incorporation  
or organization

25-1655321  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

20810 Fernbush Lane  
Houston, Texas  
(Address of principal executive office)

77073  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (281) 821-9091

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed from last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes  No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

At May 1, 2009, there were 13,205,524 shares outstanding of the issuer's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share

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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.  
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2009  
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## PART I

## Item 1 Condensed Consolidated Unaudited Financial Statements

STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. & SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
 (Amounts in thousands, except share and per share data)  
 (Unaudited)

	March 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 57,712	\$ 55,305
Short-term investments	19,724	24,379
Contracts receivable, including retainage	70,141	60,582
Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts	9,128	7,508
Inventories	1,279	1,041
Deferred tax asset, net	177	1,203
Deposits and other current assets	2,996	2,704
Total current assets	161,157	152,722
Property and equipment, net	76,015	77,993
Goodwill	57,232	57,232
Other assets, net	1,550	1,668
Total assets	\$ 295,954	\$ 289,615
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 26,047	\$ 26,111
Billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts	28,174	23,127
Current maturities of long-term obligations	73	73
Income taxes payable	597	547
Other accrued expenses	7,342	7,741
Total current liabilities	62,233	57,599
Long-term liabilities:		
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	50,464	55,483
Deferred tax liability, net	12,249	11,117
Put liability related to and noncontrolling owner's interest in subsidiary	6,244	6,300
Total long-term liabilities	68,957	72,900
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share; authorized 1,000,000 shares, none issued	--	--
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share; authorized 19,000,000 shares, 13,198,204 and 13,184,638 shares issued and outstanding	131	131
Additional paid-in capital	150,373	150,223
Retained earnings including accumulated other comprehensive loss of \$67 in 2009	14,260	8,762
Total Sterling common stockholders' equity	164,764	159,116
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 295,954	\$ 289,615

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements



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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. & SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
 (Amounts in thousands, except share and per share data)  
 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended March	
	2009	2008
	31,	
	2009	2008
Revenues	\$ 94,866	\$ 84,926
Cost of revenues	83,055	76,825
Gross profit	11,811	8,101
General and administrative expenses	(3,214)	(3,447)
Other income (expense)	87	(11)
Operating income	8,684	4,643
Interest income	159	287
Interest expense	(58)	(130)
Income before income taxes and earnings attributable to the noncontrolling interest	8,785	4,800
Income tax expense	(2,919)	(1,591)
Net income	5,866	3,209
Less: Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interest in earnings of subsidiary	(301)	(92)
Net income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 5,565	\$ 3,117
Net income per share attributable to Sterling common stockholders:		
Basic	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.24
Diluted	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.23
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding used in computing per share amounts:		
Basic	13,188,266	13,068,864
Diluted	13,715,629	13,684,249

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements

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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. & SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY  
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

(Amounts in thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other		Retained Earnings	Total
	Shares	Amount		Comprehensive Income (Loss)			
Balance at January 1, 2009	13,185	\$ 131	\$ 150,223	\$ --	\$ 8,762	\$ 159,116	
Net income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	--	--	--	--	5,565	5,565	
Stock issued upon option and warrant exercises	5	--	11	--	--	11	
Unrealized loss on available-for-sale securities, net of tax	--	--	--	(67)	--	(67)	
Issuance and amortization of restricted stock	8	--	93	--	--	93	
Stock-based compensation expense	--	--	46	--	--	46	
Balance at March 31, 2009	13,198	\$ 131	\$ 150	\$ (67)	\$ 14,327	\$ 164,764	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements

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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. & SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 (Amounts in thousands)  
 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended	
	March 31,	
	2009	2008
Net Income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 5,565	\$ 3,117
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:		
Unrealized holding loss on available-for-sale securities, net of tax	(67)	--
Comprehensive income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 5,498	\$ 3,117

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements



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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. & SUBSIDIARIES  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Amounts in thousands)  
(Unaudited)

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2009	2008
Net income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 5,565	\$ 3,117
Plus: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	301	92
Net income	5,866	3,209
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	3,603	3,285
Loss (gain) on sale of property and equipment	(89)	11
Deferred tax expense	2,158	1,183
Stock-based compensation expense	139	105
Excess tax benefits from exercise of stock options	--	(116)
Interest expense accreted on noncontrolling interest	51	126
Other changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in contracts receivable	(9,559)	1,258
(Increase) decrease in costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings on uncompleted contracts	(1,620)	(1,918)
(Increase) decrease in other current assets	(125)	(53)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(64)	(5,280)
Increase (decrease) in billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts	5,047	(1,434)
Increase (decrease) in other accrued expenses	(350)	280
Net cash provided by (used in) by operating activities	5,057	656
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Additions to property and equipment	(1,598)	(4,467)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	125	188
Purchases of short-term investments, available for sale	(6,405)	--
Proceeds from sales of short-term investments, available for sale	10,993	54
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	3,115	(4,225)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Cumulative daily drawdowns – Credit Facility	50,000	60,000
Cumulative daily reductions – Credit Facility	(55,000)	(65,000)
Repayments under long-term obligations	(18)	(31)
Issuance of note receivable	(350)	--
Payments received on note receivable	--	60
Distribution of earnings to noncontrolling interest	(408)	--
Excess tax benefits from exercise of stock options	--	116
Issuance of common stock pursuant to the exercise of options and warrants	11	120
Expenditures related to 2007 equity offering	--	(143)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(5,765)	(4,878)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,407	(8,447)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	55,305	80,649

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Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$	57,712	\$	72,202
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:				
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$	13	\$	82
Cash paid during the period for taxes		--		--

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2009 (UNAUDITED)

1. Basis of Presentation

Sterling Construction Company, Inc. ("Sterling" or "the Company") is a leading heavy civil construction company that specializes in the building, reconstruction and repair of transportation and water infrastructure in large and growing markets in Texas and Nevada. Our transportation infrastructure projects include highways, roads, bridges and light rail, and our water infrastructure projects include water, wastewater and storm drainage systems. We provide general contracting services primarily to public sector clients utilizing our own employees and equipment for activities including excavating, paving, pipe installation, and asphalt and concrete placement. We purchase the necessary materials for our contracts, perform approximately three-quarters of the work required by our contracts with our own crews, and generally engage subcontractors only for ancillary services.

Although we describe our business in this report in terms of the services we provide, base of customers and geographic areas in which we operate, we have concluded that our operations comprise one reportable segment, heavy civil construction, pursuant to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 131 – "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." In making this determination, we considered that each project has similar characteristics, includes similar services, has similar types of customers and is subject to similar economic and regulatory environments. We organize, evaluate and manage our financial information around each project when making operating decisions and assessing our overall performance.

The condensed consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared by Sterling, without audit, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and should be read in conjunction with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. The condensed consolidated financial statements reflect, in the opinion of management, all normal recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the Company's financial position at March 31, 2009 and the results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. Certain information and note disclosures prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been either condensed or omitted pursuant to SEC rules and regulations. Interim results may be subject to significant seasonal variations and the results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of subsidiaries in which the Company has a greater than 50% ownership interest, and all intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. For all periods presented, the Company had no subsidiaries with ownership interests less than 50%. The Company's subsidiaries are: Texas Sterling Construction Co. ("TSC"), Road and Highway Builders, LLC ("RHB"), Road and Highway Builders, Inc. ("RHB Inc.") and Road and Highway Builders of California, Inc. ("RHB Cal").

2. Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Management's estimates, judgments and assumptions are continually evaluated based on available information and experience; however, actual amounts could differ from those estimates.



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On an ongoing basis, the Company evaluates the critical accounting policies used to prepare its condensed consolidated financial statements, including, but not limited to, those related to:

revenue recognition  
contracts and retainage receivables  
inventories  
impairment of long-term assets  
income taxes  
self-insurance; and  
stock-based compensation

The Company's significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. There have been no material changes to such significant accounting policies.

3. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) revised Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141, "Business Combinations" (SFAS 141(R)). This Statement establishes principles and requirements for how the acquirer: (a) recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree; (b) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase and (c) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. Also, under SFAS 141(R), all direct costs of the business combination must be charged to expense on the financial statements of the acquirer as incurred. SFAS 141(R) revises previous guidance as to the recording of post-combination restructuring plan costs by requiring the acquirer to record such costs separately from the business combination. The adoption of this statement on January 1, 2009, did not have an effect on the accompanying financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (SFAS 157) which establishes a framework for measuring fair value and requires expanded disclosure about the information used to measure fair value. The statement applies whenever other statements require or permit assets or liabilities to be measured at fair value, and does not expand the use of fair value accounting in any new circumstances. We adopted this statement on January 1, 2009, which did not have a material impact on the accompanying financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 160, "Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements" (SFAS 160). SFAS 160 clarifies previous guidance on how consolidated entities should account for and report noncontrolling interests in consolidated subsidiaries. The statement standardizes the presentation of noncontrolling ("minority interests") for both the consolidated balance sheet and income statement. As a result of adopting this Statement on January 1, 2009, the accompanying financial statements segregate net income as attributable to the Company's common stockholders and noncontrolling owner's interest.

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## 4. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Short-term Investments

The Company considers all highly liquid investments with original or remaining maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents. Substantially all of the cash and cash equivalents at March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 are uninsured temporary checking accounts, investments in certificates of deposit and money market funds.

The Company classifies short-term investments as securities available for sale in accordance with SFAS No. 115, "Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities". At March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, the Company had \$19.7 million and \$24.4 million, respectively, of short-term securities available for sale. The short-term investments at March 31, 2009 consist of certificates of deposit and treasury bills with maturities of 180 to 270 days for which the market value approximates the specific cost and investments in marketable equity securities, which are all level one and are stated at their quoted market prices. The loss realized on these securities during the three months ended March 31, 2009 was immaterial. The unrealized loss of \$67,000, net of \$36,000 in estimated taxes, on these securities for the three months ended March 31, 2009 is included in other comprehensive loss in stockholders' equity as the loss is expected to be temporary. Upon sale of equity securities, the average cost basis is used to determine the gain or loss.

## 5. Inventories

The Company's inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market as determined by the average cost method. Inventories consist of raw materials, such as broken concrete, millings, and quarried stone which are expected to be utilized in construction projects in the future. The cost of inventory includes labor, trucking and equipment costs.

## 6. Property and Equipment (in thousands)

	March 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Construction equipment	\$ 94,911	\$ 96,002
Transportation equipment	12,217	12,358
Buildings	4,445	3,926
Office equipment	569	547
Construction in progress	474	792
Land	2,916	2,916
Water rights	200	200
	115,732	116,741
Less accumulated depreciation	(39,717)	(38,748)
	\$ 76,015	\$ 77,993

Construction in progress at March 31, 2009 consists of expenditures for new maintenance shop facilities at various locations in Texas.

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## 7. Income per Share

Basic net income per share attributable to Sterling common stockholders is computed by dividing net income attributable to Sterling common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted net income per share attributable to Sterling common shareholders is computed giving effect to all potentially dilutive common stock options and warrants using the treasury stock method. At March 31, 2009 and 2008, there were 96,000 and 82,500, respectively, common stock options with a weighted average exercise price per share of \$24.43 and \$24.90, respectively, which were excluded from the calculation of diluted income per share as they were anti-dilutive. The following table reconciles the numerators and denominators of the basic and diluted net income per common share computations for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively (in thousands, except per share data):

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2009	2008
Numerator:		
Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 5,565	\$ 3,117
Denominator:		
Weighted average common shares outstanding – basic	13,188	13,069
Shares for dilutive stock options, restricted stock and warrants	528	615
Weighted average common shares outstanding and assumed conversions – diluted	13,716	13,684
Basic net income per share attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.24
Diluted net income per share attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.23

## 8. Stock-Based Compensation Plans and Warrants

The Company's stock plans, which currently have stock options outstanding, are administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. In general, the plans provide for all options to be issued with a per-share exercise price equal to the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of grant. The original terms of the options typically do not exceed 10 years. Stock options generally vest over a three to five year period. Note 8 – Stock Options and Warrants of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 should be referred to for additional information regarding the stock-based incentive plans.

We recorded stock-based compensation expense of \$139,000 and \$105,000 for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, (including \$93,000 and \$53,000, respectively, related to restricted stock grants to independent directors and certain employees discussed below). Unrecognized compensation expense related to stock options at March 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$290,000 and \$490,000, respectively, to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 1.5 and 2.3 years, respectively. Proceeds received by the Company from the exercise of warrants and options for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008 were approximately \$11,000 and \$120,000. No options were granted in the three months ended March 31, 2009 or March 31, 2008.

Unrecognized compensation expense related to restricted stock awards at March 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$270,000 and \$120,000, respectively, to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.5 and 4.3 years, respectively. In May 2008 and 2007, the six non-employee directors of the Company were each granted 2,564 and 1,598 shares of restricted

stock, respectively, at the market price on the date of grant, or \$19.50 and \$21.90, respectively, which will be recognized ratably over the one year restriction period. In March 2009 and 2008, several key employees were granted an aggregated total of 8,366 and 5,672 shares of restricted stock at \$17.45 and \$18.16 per share, respectively, resulting in an expense of \$146,000 and \$103,000 to be recognized ratably over the five year restriction period. In June 2008, another non-employee director was re-elected to the board and was awarded 2,564 shares of restricted stock at \$19.50 per share.

At March 31, 2009, there were 405,800 shares covered by outstanding stock options and 334,046 shares covered by outstanding stock warrants.



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## 9. Income Taxes

The Company and its subsidiaries file consolidated income tax returns in the United States federal jurisdiction and in certain states. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to federal tax examinations for years prior to 2002 and state income tax examinations prior to 2005. The Company's policy is to recognize interest related to any underpayment of taxes as interest expense, and penalties as administrative expenses. No interest or penalties have been accrued at March 31, 2009 and 2008.

In its 2005 tax return, the Company used net operating tax loss carryforwards ("NOL") that would have expired during that year instead of deducting compensation expense that originated in 2005 as the result of stock option exercises. Whether the Company can choose not to take deductions for compensation expense in the tax return and to instead use otherwise expiring NOLs is considered by management to be an uncertain tax position. In the event that the IRS examines the 2005 tax return and determines that the compensation expense is a required deduction in the tax return, then the Company would deduct the compensation expense instead of the NOL used in the period; however there would be no cash impact on tax paid due to the increased compensation deduction. In addition, there would be no interest or penalties due as a result of the change. Based on the Company's detailed analysis, management has determined that it is more likely than not this position will be sustained upon examination, and this uncertain tax position was determined to have a measurement of \$0.

The effective income tax rates were 33.2% and 33.1% of income before income taxes and noncontrolling interest for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The difference between the effective tax rates and the statutory rate of 35% is the result of miscellaneous permanent differences, including the portion of earnings of a subsidiary taxed to the noncontrolling interest owner, offset by the revised Texas franchise tax.

## 10. Noncontrolling Interest in Subsidiary

On October 31, 2007, the Company purchased a 91.67% interest in Road and Highway Builders, LLC ("RHB") and all of the outstanding capital stock of Road and Highway Builders Inc. ("RHB Inc.") then an inactive Nevada Corporation. RHB is a heavy civil construction business located in Reno, Nevada that builds roads, highways and bridges for state and local governmental agencies.

The noncontrolling interest owner of RHB has the right to put, or require the Company to buy, his remaining 8.33% interest in RHB and, concurrently, the Company has the right to require that owner to sell his 8.33% interest to the Company, beginning in 2011. The purchase price in each case is 8.33% of the product of six times the simple average of RHB's income before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for the calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010. At the date of acquisition, the difference between the noncontrolling owner's interest in the historical basis of RHB and the estimated fair value of that interest was recorded as a liability to noncontrolling interest and a reduction in additional paid-in-capital. Any changes to the estimated fair value of the noncontrolling interest will be recorded as a corresponding change in additional paid-in-capital. Additionally, interest expense (\$51,000 and \$126,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively) has been accreted to the noncontrolling interest liability based on the discount rate used to calculate the fair value.

The following table summarizes the changes in the noncontrolling interest for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008 (in thousands):

	2009	2008
Balance, beginning of period	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,362
Noncontrolling interest in earnings of subsidiary	301	92
Accretion of interest on noncontrolling interest liability	51	126

Distributions to noncontrolling interest		(408)	--
Balance, end of period	\$	6,244	\$ 6,580

For more detail regarding this acquisition, see Note 13 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Forward Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q includes certain statements that are, or may be deemed to be, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the “Exchange Act”). These forward-looking statements may be found throughout this report, including in this “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and in “Risk Factors”, below and relate to matters such as our industry, business strategy, goals and expectations concerning our market position, contract backlog, future operations, margins, profitability, capital expenditures, liquidity and capital resources and other financial and operating information. We use the words “anticipate,” “assume,” “believe,” “budget,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “intend,” “potential,” “predict,” “project,” “will,” “future” and similar terms and phrases to identify forward-looking statements in this report.

Forward-looking statements reflect our current expectations regarding future events, results or outcomes. These expectations may or may not be realized. Some of these expectations may be based upon assumptions or judgments that prove to be incorrect. In addition, our business and operations involve numerous risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, which could result in our expectations not being realized or otherwise could materially affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Actual events, results and outcomes may differ materially from our expectations due to a variety of factors. Although it is not possible to identify all of these factors, they include, among others, the following:

- changes in general economic conditions, in federal, state and local government funding for infrastructure services and in those governments' laws and regulations;
- delays or difficulties related to the completion of our projects, including additional costs, reductions in revenues or the payment of liquidated damages or obtaining required governmental permits and approvals;
- actions of suppliers, subcontractors, customers, competitors, banks, surety companies and others which are beyond our control including suppliers' and subcontractors' failure to perform;
- the effects of estimates inherent in our percentage-of-completion accounting policies including onsite conditions that differ materially from those assumed in our original bid, contract modifications, mechanical problems with our machinery or equipment and effects of other risks discussed in this document;
- cost escalations associated with our fixed-unit-price contracts, including changes in availability, proximity and cost of materials such as steel, concrete, aggregates, oil, fuel and other construction materials and cost escalations associated with subcontractors and labor;
- our dependence on a few significant customers;
- adverse weather conditions; although we prepare our budgets and bid contracts based on historical rain and snowfall patterns, the incidence of rain, snow, hurricanes, etc., may differ materially from these expectations;
- the presence of competitors with greater financial resources and the impact of competitive services and pricing;
- our ability to successfully identify, finance, complete and integrate acquisitions;

- citations issued by any governmental authority, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and
- the current instability of financial institutions could cause losses on our cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

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Stockholders and potential investors are urged to carefully consider these factors and the other factors described under “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 in evaluating any forward-looking statements and are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by the forward-looking statements that we make in this report are reasonable, we can provide no assurance that such plans, intentions or expectations will be achieved.

Any forward-looking statements included in this report are made only as of the date of this report, and we undertake no obligation to update any information contained in this report or to publicly release the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances that occur, or that we become aware of, after the date of this report, except as may be required by applicable securities laws.

## Overview

Sterling Construction Company, Inc. (“Sterling” or “the Company”) operates in one segment, heavy civil construction, through Texas Sterling Construction Co., (“TSC”), Road and Highway Builders, LLC (“RHB”), Road and Highway Builders Inc. (“RHB Inc”) and Road and Highway Builders of California, Inc (“RHB Cal”) that specialize in the building, reconstruction and repair of transportation and water infrastructure in large and growing population markets in Texas and Nevada. Our transportation infrastructure projects include highways, roads, bridges and light rail, and our water infrastructure projects include water, wastewater and storm drainage systems. We provide general contracting services primarily to public sector clients utilizing our own employees and equipment for activities including excavating, paving, pipe installation and asphalt and concrete placement. We purchase the necessary materials for our contracts, perform approximately three-quarters of the work required by our contracts with our own crews, and generally engage subcontractors only for ancillary services.

For a more detailed discussion of the Company's business, readers of this report are urged to review Item 1, Business, of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

## Material Changes in Financial Condition

At March 31, 2009, there had been no material changes in the Company’s financial condition since December 31, 2008, as discussed in Item 7 of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

## Results of Operations

Three months ended March 31, 2009 compared with three months ended March 31, 2008

(dollar amounts in thousands) (unaudited):	2009	2008	% change
Revenues	\$ 94,866	\$ 84,926	11.7%
Gross profit	11,811	8,101	45.8%
Gross margin	12.5%	9.5%	31.6%
General, administrative and other expenses	(3,127)	(3,458)	(9.6%)
Operating income	8,684	4,643	87.0%
Operating margin	9.2%	5.5%	67.3%
Interest income, net	101	157	(35.7%)
Income before taxes and earnings attributable to the noncontrolling interest	8,785	4,800	83.0%
Income taxes	(2,919)	(1,591)	83.5%

Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interest in earnings of subsidiary		(301)		(92)	227.2%
Net income attributable to Sterling common stockholders	\$	5,565	\$	3,117	78.5%

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### Revenues

Revenues for the first quarter of 2009 increased \$9.9 million or 11.7% over the comparable quarter in 2008. A majority of the increase was due to the amount of revenues earned by our Nevada operations in the first quarter of 2009 vs. the comparable quarter in 2008. The increase in revenues in Nevada is primarily due to projects being performed in 2009 in Southern Nevada where the weather is less seasonal than in Northern Nevada where our Nevada projects were principally located in 2008.

### Backlog

At the end of the first quarter of the current year, our backlog of construction projects was \$385 million, as compared to \$448 million as of December 31, 2008 and \$485 million at the end of the first quarter of 2008. In the first quarter of 2009, we were awarded or were the apparent low bidder on \$32 million of new contracts. At March 31, 2009, we had \$12 million in backlog which had not been officially awarded to us. Historically, subsequent non-award of such low bids has not had an adverse effect on the Company's backlog or financial condition.

While our business does not include residential and commercial infrastructure work, the severe fall-off in new projects in those markets in Nevada and to a lesser extent in Texas, has resulted in some residential and commercial infrastructure contractors bidding on public sector transportation and water infrastructure projects, thus increasing competition and creating downward pressure on bid prices in our markets. These and other factors could adversely affect our ability to maintain or increase our backlog through successful bids for new projects and could adversely affect the profitability of new projects that we do obtain through successful bids.

Recent reductions in miles driven in the U.S. and more fuel efficient vehicles are reducing federal and state gasoline taxes and tolls collected. Additionally, the current credit crisis may limit the amount of state and local bonds that can be sold at reasonable terms. Further, the nationwide decline in home sales, the increase in foreclosures and a prolonged recession may result in decreases in user fees and property and sales taxes. These and other factors could adversely affect transportation and water infrastructure capital expenditures in our markets.

In February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("ARRA") was signed into law which provides stimulus funds of \$2.25 billion in Texas and \$200 million in Nevada for the construction of highway and bridges over the years 2009 and 2010. These stimulus funds have funded or partially funded certain projects in April 2009 lettings by the Texas Department of Transportation ("TXDOT") and may increase the number or projects, and margins thereon, that we bid the rest of this year and in 2010.

### Gross profit

During 2008 and 2009, we have had approximately 60 contracts-in-progress at any one time of various sizes, expected different profitability and in various stages of completion. The nearer a contract progresses toward completion, the more visibility we have in refining our estimate of total revenues (including incentives and delay penalties), costs and gross profit. Thus gross profit as a percent of revenues can increase or decrease from comparable and sequential quarters-to-quarters due to which contracts are just commencing or are at a more advanced stage of completion.

The increase in gross profit of \$3.7 million or 45.8% in the first quarter of 2009 over the comparable quarter in 2008 was due in part to the increase in revenues of our Nevada operations in 2009 and in part to the mix in the stage of completion and profitability of certain contracts at March 31, 2009 as discussed above. The gross margin of 12.5% in the first quarter of 2009 may not be indicative of the gross margins that the Company will achieve in subsequent quarters of 2009.

### General and administrative expenses, net of other income

General and administrative expenses, net of other income, decreased by \$331,000 in the first quarter of 2009 versus 2008, primarily due to lower bonus accruals and depreciation charged to G&A, offset by an increase in accruals for

external and internal audit services in the first quarter of 2009 versus the comparable period in 2008. As a percent of revenues, G&A, net of other income, was 3.3% for the first quarter of 2009 versus 4.1% of revenues for the comparable prior year quarter. General and administrative expenses and other income do not vary directly with the volume of work performed on contracts.

#### Operating income

Operating income increased \$4.0 million in the first quarter of 2009 over 2008, due to the factors discussed above regarding gross profit and general and administrative expenses.

#### Income taxes

Our effective income tax rate for the first quarter of 2009 was 33.2% compared to 33.1% for the first quarter of 2008 and varied from the statutory rate as a result of various miscellaneous permanent differences, including the portion of earnings of a subsidiary taxed to the noncontrolling interest owner offset by the revised Texas franchise tax.



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## Liquidity and Capital Resources

## Cash Flows

The following table sets forth our cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008 (in thousands) (unaudited):

	Three months ended	
	March 31	
	2009	2008
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 57,712	\$ 55,305
Net cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	5,057	656
Investing activities	3,115	(4,225)
Financing activities	(5,765)	(4,878)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,407	\$ (8,447)
Capital expenditures	\$ 1,598	\$ 4,467
Working capital at end of period	\$ 98,924	\$ 80,797

## Operating Activities

Significant non-cash items included in operating activities are:

depreciation and amortization, which for the first three months of the current year totaled \$3.6 million, an increase of \$0.3 million from last year, as a result of the continued increase in the size of our construction fleet in recent years; and deferred tax expense of \$2.2 million in 2009 versus \$1.2 million in 2008, respectively, mainly attributable to accelerated depreciation methods used on equipment for tax purposes and amortization for tax return purposes of goodwill.

Besides net income of \$5.6 million attributable to Sterling's common stockholders and the non-cash items discussed above, significant components of cash flow are as follows:

contracts receivable and costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings increased by \$11.2 million in the first three months of 2009 due in part to the increase in revenues of \$9.9 million, and in part due to the timing of billings to customers, as compared to an increase of \$0.7 million in those accounts in 2008; and the increase in billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings on uncompleted contracts of \$5.0 million as of March 31, 2009, versus a decrease of \$1.4 million as of March 31, 2008, which reflects the increase in volume of work being performed and timing of billings to customers.

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### Investing activities

Expenditures for the replacement of certain equipment and to expand our construction fleet and office and shop facilities totaled \$1.6 million in the first three months of 2009, compared with a total of \$4.5 million of property and equipment purchases in the same period last year. Capital equipment is acquired as needed to support work crews required by increased backlog and to replace retiring equipment. We plan to continue the replacement of equipment over the remainder of the year as required. The decrease in capital expenditures in 2009 was principally due to management's cautious view regarding certain of the Company's markets and current economic uncertainties. Unless such facts change, management expects capital expenditures in 2009 to be less than in 2008.

Also during the three months ended March 31, 2009 and 2008, the Company had net sales of short-term securities of \$4.6 million and \$54,000, respectively.

### Financing activities

Financing activities in the first three months of 2009 and 2008 primarily reflect a reduction of \$5.0 in borrowings in each of those periods under our \$75.0 million Credit Facility. The amount of borrowings under the Credit Facility is based on the Company's expectations of working capital requirements.

### Liquidity

The level of working capital for our construction business varies due to fluctuations in:

- customer receivables and contract retentions;
- costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings;
- billings in excess of costs and estimated earnings;
- the size and status of contract mobilization payments and progress billings;
- the amounts owed to suppliers and subcontractors.

Some of these fluctuations can be significant.

As of March 31, 2009, we had working capital of \$98.9 million, an increase of \$3.8 million over December 31, 2008. Working capital is an important element in expanding our bonding capacity, which enables us to bid on larger and longer duration projects. The increase in working capital was mainly the result of net income plus depreciation and deferred tax expense totaling \$11.3 million reduced by purchases of property and equipment of \$1.6 million and net repayment of debt of \$5.0 million.

The Company believes that it has sufficient liquid financial resources, including the unused portion of its Credit Facility, to fund its requirements for the next twelve months of operations, including its bonding requirements, and expects no other material changes in its liquidity.

### Sources of Capital

In addition to our available cash and cash equivalents balances and cash provided by operations, we use borrowings under our Credit Facility with Comerica Bank to finance our capital expenditures and working capital needs.

In October 2007, we entered into a new Credit Facility with Comerica Bank which matures October 31, 2012. The Credit Facility allows for borrowings of up to \$75.0 million and is secured by all assets of the Company, other than proceeds and other rights under our construction contracts which are pledged to our bond surety. At March 31, 2009, the aggregate borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facility were \$50.0 million, and the aggregate amount of

letters of credit outstanding under the Credit Facility was \$1.8 million, which reduces availability under the Credit Facility. Availability under the Credit Facility was therefore \$23.2 million at March 31, 2009.

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The Credit Facility requires the payment of a quarterly commitment fee of 0.25% per annum of the unused portion of the Credit Facility. At our election, the loans under the Credit Facility bear interest at either a LIBOR-based interest rate or a prime-based interest rate. The average interest rate on funds borrowed under the Credit Facility during the three months ended March 31, 2009 was approximately 3.25%. The Credit Facility is subject to our compliance with certain covenants, including financial covenants at quarter-end relating to fixed charges, leverage, tangible net worth, asset coverage and consolidated net losses. We were in compliance with all of these covenants at March 31, 2009.

The financial markets have recently experienced substantial volatility as a result of disruptions in the credit markets. However, to date we have experienced no difficulty in borrowing under our Credit Facility and no change in its terms.

### Inflation

Until the first nine months of 2008, inflation had not had a material impact on our financial results; however, that year's increases in oil and fuel prices affected our cost of operations. Subsequent to September 30, 2008, the prices we have paid for oil and fuel have decreased. Anticipated cost increases and reductions are considered in our bids to customers on proposed new construction projects.

Where we are the successful bidder on a project, we execute purchase orders with material suppliers and contracts with subcontractors covering the prices of most materials and services, other than oil and fuel products, thereby mitigating future price increases and supply disruptions. These purchase orders and contracts do not contain quantity guarantees and we have no obligation for materials and services beyond those required to complete the contracts with our customers. There can be no assurance that oil and fuel used in our business will be adequately covered by the estimated escalation we have included in our bids or that all of our vendors will fulfill their pricing and supply commitments under their purchase orders and contracts with the Company. We adjust our total estimated costs on our projects where we believe it is probable that we will have cost increases which will not be recovered from customers, vendors or re-engineering.

### Our Markets

We operate in the heavy civil construction segment for infrastructure projects in Texas and Nevada, specializing in transportation and water infrastructure. RHB Cal has bid on construction projects in California, but has not been awarded any such projects.

Demand for transportation and water infrastructure depends on a variety of factors, including overall population growth, economic expansion and the vitality of the market areas in which we operate, as well as unique local topographical, structural and environmental issues. In addition to these factors, demand for the replacement of infrastructure is driven by the general aging of infrastructure and the need for technical improvements to achieve more efficient or safer use of infrastructure and resources. Funding for this infrastructure depends on federal, state and local authorizations.

According to the 2006 census, Texas is the second largest state in population in the U.S. with 23.5 million people and a population growth of 12.7% since 2000, almost double the 6.4% growth rate for the U.S. as a whole over the same period. Three of the 10 largest cities in the U.S. are located in Texas and we have operating divisions in each of those cities: Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth and San Antonio. Nevada has undergone even more rapid growth, with the state's population expanding 24.9% since 2000 to 2.5 million people in 2006.

Our highway and bridge work is generally funded through federal and state authorizations. The federal government enacted the SAFETEA-LU bill in 2005, which authorized \$286 billion for transportation spending through 2009. Of

this total, the Texas Department of Transportation (“TXDOT”) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (“NDOT”) were originally allocated approximately \$14.5 billion and \$1.3 billion, respectively, over the five years of the authorization. Actual SAFETEA-LU appropriations have been somewhat reduced from the original allocations. The USDOT proposed budget under SAFETEA-LU for the Federal-Aid Highways Program requests \$39.4 billion of federal financial assistance to the States for 2009 versus actual appropriations of \$41.2 billion for 2008 and \$38.0 billion for 2007. A successor federal funding program has not yet been passed by Congress; however, the President's proposed budget for 2010 includes \$72.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation which would include funding to the States for highway and bridge construction.

On February 17, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("economic-stimulus legislation") was enacted by the federal government that authorizes \$26.7 billion for highway and bridge construction. A significant portion of these funds will be used for ready-to-go, quick spending highway projects for which contracts can be awarded quickly. States are required, subject to certain exceptions, to obligate 50 percent of the apportionment within 120 days of the date of apportionment or lose the funds not obligated in that period of time. States would be further required to obligate the second 50 percent of their apportionment within one year of the initial apportionment. The highway funds apportioned to Texas and Nevada approximated \$2.3 billion and \$0.2 billion, respectively.

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In January, 2009, the 2030 Committee, appointed by TXDOT at the request of the Governor of the State of Texas, submitted its draft report of the transportation needs of Texas. The report indicated that the population of Texas is projected to grow at close to twice the U.S. rate with the population of Texas growing from 23.5 million in 2006 to between 30.5 million and 40.5 million in 2030. The report stated that "With this population increase expected by 2030, transportation modes, costs and congestion are considered a possible roadblock to Texas' projected growth and prosperity."

The report further indicated that Texas needs to spend approximately \$313.0 billion (in 2008 dollars) over the 22 year period from 2009 through 2030 to prevent worsening congestion and maintain economic competitiveness on its urban highways and roads, improve congestion/safety and partial connectivity on its rural highways and bridge replacement.

While TXDOT officials have indicated potential short-term funding shortfalls and reductions in spending on transportation, the TXDOT budget for 2009 for transportation construction projects is \$3.5 billion, including stimulus funds, versus estimated expenditures of \$2.1 billion in 2008 and actual expenditures of \$2.7 billion in 2007.

The Texas Senate has passed legislation that would fund \$8.1 billion for highway and bridge construction in the 2010-11 biennium and the Texas House Committee substitute bill for the Senate legislation includes \$6.1 billion (\$4.0 billion in 2010 and \$2.1 billion in 2011) for such construction in the 2010-11 biennium. TXDOT had requested approximately \$7.2 billion (\$4.5 billion in 2010 and \$2.7 billion in 2011), including stimulus funds, for such construction in the biennium. The Senate and House bills must be negotiated, submitted to both chambers for final approval and signed into law by the Governor before such legislation becomes effective.

Additionally, the House legislation permits TXDOT to expend during the 2010-11 biennium the proceeds of the \$5.0 billion Proposition 12 General Obligation Bonds approved by the voters of the State of Texas in November 2007 if TXDOT meets certain conditions set out in the legislation, including the written approval of the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

NDOT transportation construction expenditures totaled \$449.2 million in 2006 and \$455.5 million in 2007. NDOT's budget for 2008 and 2009 includes \$355.0 million and \$420.9 million for transportation capital expenditures, respectively. Projections by NDOT for 2010 and 2011 transportation capital expenditures are \$400 million each year. NDOT has stated that Nevada's highway system needs are expected to be \$11 billion by 2015; however, it has also stated that Nevada is currently facing a \$3.8 billion shortfall (in 2006 dollars) for the 10 largest projects planned for completion in 2015.

In summary, aggregate contract lettings, including stimulus funds, would be \$3.5 billion in 2009 and \$4.0 billion in 2010 in Texas based on the lower proposed appropriations of the Texas House and \$521 million in 2009 and \$500 million in 2010 in Nevada, based on the currently proposed NDOT budgets and strategic plans. The amounts for Texas are before any funds that may be spent from the Texas General Obligation Bond approved by the voters in 2007.

In Texas, substantial funds for transportation infrastructure spending are also being provided by toll road and regional mobility authorities for the construction of toll roads.

Our water and wastewater, underground utility, light-rail transit and non-highway paving work is generally funded by municipalities and other local authorities. While the size and growth rates of these markets is difficult to compute as a whole, given the number of municipalities, the differences in funding sources and variations in local budgets, management estimates that the municipal markets in which we operate are providing funding in excess of \$1 billion annually. Two of the many municipalities that we perform work for are discussed below:

The City of Houston estimated expenditures for 2008 on storm drainage, street and traffic, waste water and water capital improvements were \$721 million.

The most recently adopted five-year plan includes \$612 million in 2009, \$557 million in 2010 and \$504 million in 2011 for such improvements and projects; however, prior to the recent enactment of the federal government's economic-stimulus legislation, the Mayor of the City of Houston indicated he would defer \$200 million of the 2009 improvements to future years.

The City of San Antonio has adopted a six-year capital improvement plan for 2009 through 2014, which includes \$415 million for streets (\$124 million in 2009) and \$228 million for drainage (\$103 million in 2009). The expenditures will be partially funded by the \$550 million bond program that the voters of the City of San Antonio approved in May 2007. Included in those bonds was \$307 million for streets, bridges and sidewalks improvements and \$152 million for drainage improvements to be built over the period 2007 through 2012.

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We also do work for other cities, counties, business area redevelopment authorities and regional authorities in Texas which have substantial water and transportation infrastructure spending budgets.

In addition, while we currently have no municipal contracts in the City of Las Vegas, that City's capital improvement plan proposes expenditures for public works of \$807 million for the years 2009 through 2013, including \$311 million in 2009. The City Council of Las Vegas recently directed the city staff to delay capital improvement projects that will require additional staffing for one to two years which may cause significant deferrals of construction projects. However, management believes there will be opportunities for the Company to bid on and obtain municipal work in Las Vegas as well as Reno and Carson City.

While our business does not include residential and commercial infrastructure work, the severe fall-off in new projects in those markets in Nevada and to a lesser extent in Texas, has caused a softer bidding climate in our infrastructure markets and has caused some residential and commercial infrastructure contractors to bid on public sector transportation and water infrastructure projects, thus increasing competition and creating downward pressure on bid prices in our markets. These and other factors could adversely affect our ability to maintain or increase our backlog through successful bids for new projects and could adversely affect the profitability of new projects that we do obtain through successful bids.

Recent reductions in miles driven in the U.S. and more fuel efficient vehicles are reducing the amount of federal and state gasoline taxes and tolls collected. Additionally, the current credit crisis may limit the amount of state and local bonds that can be sold at reasonable terms. Further, the nationwide decline in home sales, the increase in foreclosures and a prolonged recession may result in decreases in user fees and property and sales taxes. These and other factors could adversely affect transportation and water infrastructure capital expenditures in our markets.

Due to increased competition the Company has submitted some of its more recent bids at margins that are lower than bids submitted in the latter half of 2008. The resulting lower margin jobs may affect gross margins recognized in the financial statements for several quarters subsequent to March 31, 2009. Assuming TXDOT moves forward in 2009 with its planned level of spending, we expect to have bidding opportunities that could allow our gross profit margins to return to historic levels.

While the bidding climate varies by locality, we continue to bid projects that fit our expertise and current criteria for potential revenues and gross margins after giving consideration to resource utilization, degree of difficulty in the projects, amount of subcontracts and materials and project competition. Our markets are softer and more competitive in the current economic climate. Management believes that the Company has the resources and experience to continue to compete successfully for projects as they become available.

### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Changes in interest rates are one of our sources of market risks. At March 31, 2009, \$50 million of our outstanding indebtedness was at floating interest rates. Based on our average debt outstanding during 2009, we estimate that an increase of 1.0% in the interest rate would have resulted in an increase in our interest expense of approximately \$1,000 in the first quarter of 2009.

To manage risks of changes in material prices and subcontracting costs used in tendering bids for construction contracts, we obtain firm price quotations from our suppliers, except for fuel, and subcontractors before submitting a bid. These quotations do not include any quantity guarantees, and we have no obligation for materials or subcontract services beyond those required to complete the respective contracts that we are awarded for which quotations have been provided.



During 2009, we commenced a strategy of investing in certain securities, the assets of which are a crude oil commodity pool. We believe that the gains and losses on these securities will tend to offset increases and decreases in the price we pay for diesel and gasoline fuel and reduce the volatility of such fuel costs in our operations. At March 31, 2009, the Company has invested \$2.4 million in such securities which had a quoted market value of \$2.3 million. While the Company had an unrealized loss of \$0.1 million on these securities for the first quarter of 2009, the price of diesel fuel and gasoline also declined during that period. The Company will continue to evaluate this strategy, however, there can be no assurance that this strategy will be successful.

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Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including the principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

The Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer reviewed and evaluated the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on that evaluation, the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective at March 31, 2009 to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by the Company in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management including the principal executive and principal financial officer as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes during the three months ended March 31, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls

Internal controls over financial reporting may not prevent or detect all errors and all fraud. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of internal controls to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

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PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

The Company is not a party to any material legal proceedings.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have not been any material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None

Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

None

Item 5. Other Information

None

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
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31.1 Certification of Patrick T. Manning, Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a)

31.2 Certification of James H. Allen, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a)

32.0 Certification of Patrick T. Manning, Chief Executive Officer and James H. Allen, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 (Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

Date: May 11, 2009

By: /s/ Patrick T. Manning.

Patrick T. Manning.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Date: May 11, 2009

By: /s/ James H. Allen, Jr.

James H. Allen, Jr.

Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer

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STERLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.  
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for Period Ended March 31, 2009  
Exhibit Index

Exhibit

No. Description

\*31.1 Certification by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

\*31.2 Certification by the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

\*32 Certification of Periodic Financial Report by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

\*Filed herewith

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