



**City of Sacramento
City Council**

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
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Meeting Date: 6/19/2012

Report Type: Consent

Title: Contract: Tree Pruning and Removal Services (2/3 Vote Required]

Report ID: 2012-00386

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution 1) suspending competitive bidding for Tree Pruning Services as it is in the best interest of the City; and 2) authorizing staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit qualified contractors for tree pruning and removal services for a total amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 for a maximum of three years. (2/3 vote required)

Contact: Todd Martin, Operations General Supervisor, (916) 808-8074; Juan Montanez, Streets Manager, (916) 808-2254, Department of Transportation

Presenter: None

Department: Transportation Department

Division: Urban Forestry

Dept ID: 15001811

Attachments:

- 1- Description/Analysis
- 2 - Background
- 3- Resolution

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Gerald Hicks
6/8/2012 10:41:59 AM

City Treasurer Review

Reviewed for Impact on Cash and Debt
Russell Fehr
6/4/2012 12:46:18 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Jerry Way - 6/7/2012 2:41:30 PM

Description/Analysis

Issue: The City has approximately 75,000 public trees that are located in the public right-of-ways, such as in planter strips between the curb and sidewalk. In a few areas, the right-of-way extends beyond the street rights-of-way and into front yards. The Neighborhood Tree Pruning Program involves basic tree care to remove dead or dying branches, reducing end weight, improving structure, and elevating tree crowns to allow clearance over sidewalks and streets.

Over the last two years, the City has contracted with two separate tree care firms to supplement tree pruning and removal services work performed by City staff. This allows City Urban Forestry staff to respond to individual service requests and special projects in addition to assisting with the Neighborhood Pruning Program. This arrangement allows the City to maintain the City's street trees at an optimum cycle.

Policy Considerations: The recommendations in this report are consistent with the City's General Plan Policy, Section ER 3.1.1- Urban Forest Management Plan: The City shall maintain and implement an Urban Forest Management Plan.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The proposal involves the purchasing of tree pruning and removal services. This is not a 'project' and not subject to CEQA, in accordance with Section 15378(b) (2) of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, as determined by the City's Environmental Services Planning Manager, no environmental review is necessary.

Sustainability Considerations: The proposed actions are consistent with the Sustainability Master Plan goal to maintain and expand the urban forest. This contract will adhere to the City's "Sustainable Procurement Policy (SPP) and program.

Other: None.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: Tree pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. Maintenance pruning is desirable and necessary to remove dead, diseased, or insect-infested branches and to improve tree structure and reduce risk, enhance vigor, and to maintain clearance over the City's streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks.

Currently, Urban Forestry has 25 full-time operational employees who manage the ongoing maintenance of the City's urban forest. In order to provide continuity, flexibility, and the most cost-effective/quality service to the City residents, staff recommends that the City suspend the competitive bid process under which contractors are selected solely on the basis of the lowest bid, and instead award the contract to the most qualified candidate, which will be selected through an RFP process. In considering proposals, ranking factors will include price, capacity, and experience in municipal tree care operations, including available equipment and staffing levels, and references from prior municipal clients. The expected outcome is a highly qualified

municipal tree care provider with the experience and capacity to respond to the City's urban forestry needs at an optimum value.

Urban Forestry directly oversees contracted work on a daily basis to ensure quality control and effective communication with residents, businesses, property owners and other City departments and local agencies.

Financial Considerations: Funding for tree pruning and removal services is provided through Urban Forestry's operating budget, provided by the Citywide Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District. There is sufficient money in the FY2012/13 operating budget for the purchase of tree pruning and removal services. Extension of the contract for each of the additional contract years is subject to funding availability in the adopted budget for the applicable fiscal year. The total contract amount over the potential three-year term is based on an analysis of prior year work orders, and anticipated citywide maintenance needs of the urban forest, including the aging English elm tree population and the number of trees infected with Dutch elm disease.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None.



Background

Over the last two years, the City has contracted with two separate tree care firms, Jorge Salinas Tree Preservation and Jensen Tree Services, through an Invitation for Bid process (IFB) to supplement tree pruning and removal services work performed by the City staff. In December 2011, Jensen Tree Services informed the City that it did not intend to renew its contract under the current terms, and the contract expired in January 2012. The contract with Jorge Salinas Tree Preservation was initiated in July 2010 and will expire in July 2012.

Although both contractors have performed assigned work in a satisfactory manner, each has been reluctant to provide additional staffing to meet certain additional needs of the City's urban forest, due primarily to the extremely low profitability of the bids originally submitted. Smaller projects have been delayed, and stump grinding deferred, in turn delaying tree planting and replacement. While the cost savings to the City have been advantageous, staff recommends that consideration of other factors beyond the lowest bid are in the best interest of maintaining the City's urban forest.



RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

SUSPEND COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO SOLICIT QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR PROCUREMENT OF TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL SERVICES.

BACKGROUND

- A. Contracted tree pruning and removal services supplement the work performed by City staff and are needed to address maintenance of the urban forest in an efficient and timely manner. The recommended contract will provide scheduled and emergency tree pruning and tree removal services.
- B. Maintenance pruning is desirable and necessary to remove dead, diseased, or insect-infested branches and to improve tree structure and reduce risk, enhance vigor, and to maintain clearance over the City's streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It is in the best interests of the City to suspend competitive bidding for tree pruning and removal services.

Section 2. Competitive bidding for tree pruning and removal services is hereby suspended.

Section 3. Staff is authorized to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit qualified contractors for tree pruning and removal services for a total amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 for a maximum of three years