



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
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Consent
October 3, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Increase Contract Amount for Tree Pruning and Removal Services

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: That the City Council Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) suspending competitive bidding for tree pruning and removal services in the amount of \$160,000, and 2) increasing the not-to-exceed amount of the existing tree pruning and removal services contract between the City and West Coast Arborists, Inc., (City Agreement No. 2005-0197) by \$160,000 from \$330,000 to \$490,000 for the current contract year, which ends December 5, 2006.

Contact: Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Manager, (916) 808-6258

Presenters: Not applicable

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Urban Forest Services

Organization No.: 4713

Description/Analysis

Issue: An increase in the not-to-exceed amount of the existing contract for tree pruning and removal services of \$160,000 for the current contract year is needed to safely and efficiently manage the City of Sacramento's urban forest. The incidence of Dutch elm diseased (DED) trees requiring removal has increased at a higher than anticipated rate, and unexpectedly hot summer temperatures have increased summer branch failure service calls by 30%.

Policy Considerations: The recommendation in this report to increase the not-to-exceed amount of the current contract year is consistent with the Urban Forest Best Management Practices Implementation Plan and the Urban Forest Enhancement Program and with the City of Sacramento Strategic Plan goals of improving and

expanding public safety and achieving sustainability and livability.

The recommendation in this report to suspend competitive bidding is in accordance with the provisions of Sacramento City Code section 3.56.232(C), which authorizes suspension of formal competitive bidding upon a two-thirds vote of the City Council, when this is determined to be in the City's best interests.

Environmental Considerations: A Negative Declaration was prepared for the Sacramento Urban Forest Management Plan and ratified by City Council. The recommendation in this report is consistent with the Urban Forest Management Plan and its associated Negative Declaration. No further compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is necessary.

Rationale for Recommendation: The City of Sacramento has an estimated 120,000 street and parks trees. Due to an unexpected increase in maintenance needs, Urban Forest staff is unable to keep up with tree pruning and removal demands.

Incidence of DED has increased at a higher than anticipated rate. In the period from 1990 to 2001, there were 136 confirmed DED elms, while in the period from 2002 to 2005 there were 205 confirmed DED elms. To date, the City Arborist has identified 100 DED elms for 2006. It is estimated that 100+ elm trees will be removed at a cost of \$1,400 per tree.

Increased summer branch drop due to unexpectedly hot temperatures has forced Urban Forest Services staff into a reactive role as they remove branches from public right-of-ways. Customer Service call volume increased by 30% during this summer and staff responded to 150 branch drop related calls in the period July 14th – July 28th.

The recommended increase in the not-to-exceed amount of the existing contract for tree pruning and removal services of \$160,000 for the current contract year will enable Urban Forest Services Staff to address the public safety issues presented by the higher than anticipated incidences of DED trees requiring removal and summer branch drop by allowing for safer, more efficient, and timely management of the City's urban forest. Urban Forest Services staff is preparing a new bid for this service that reflects the increased maintenance needs of the urban forest for the upcoming contract year.

Financial Considerations: Funds for the recommended increase are available in the approved Urban Forest Services Fiscal Year '07 operating budget.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): West Coast Arborist, Inc., is not a certified E/SBE firm.

Respectfully Submitted by: 

Robert G. Overstreet,
Parks and Recreation Director

Recommendation Approved:


for Ray Kerridge
City Manager

Table of Contents:

	Pg	1	Report
Attachment 1:	Pg	4	Background
Attachment 2:	Pg	5	Resolution

Attachment 1: Background

On December 6, 2005, City Council adopted specifications of Bid No. B061187029 and awarded the Tree Pruning and Removal Services Agreement No. 2005-0197, to West Coast Arborists, Inc. Procurement Services issued a purchase order for \$315,000 with a not to exceed amount of \$330,000 per contract year. Upon mutual agreement of the parties, the contract can be extended on a year-to-year basis for up to three additional years at a not-to-exceed amount of \$330,000 per year. The contract year is December 6, 2005 to December 5, 2006. As of September 1, 2006, \$315,000 had been expended. Currently, Urban Forest Services has \$275,000 in work orders for City Street trees pending. Urban Forest Services staff estimates that West Coast Arborists, Inc. can complete up to \$160,000 in work orders between now and the end of the contract on December 5, 2006.

The following factors justify increasing the not-to-exceed amount:

- A higher than anticipated number of Dutch elm diseased (DED) trees. Incidence of DED has increased at a higher than anticipated rate. In the period from 1990 to 2001, there were 136 confirmed DED elms, while in the period from 2002 to 2005 there were 205 confirmed DED elms. In 2006, the City Arborist has identified 100 DED elms as of September 2006. The cost to remove these trees is estimated at \$1,400 per tree.
- Summer branch drop. Increased summer branch drop due to unexpectedly hot temperatures has forced Urban Forest Services staff into a reactive role as they remove branches from public right-a-ways. Staff responded to over 150 branch drop related calls in the period July 14th – July 28th.
- The contract's not-to-exceed amount did not account for special projects. Urban Forest Services uses this contract to pay the cost of tree pruning and removal for Capitol City Golf (\$20,000), a low cost Mistletoe Abatement Program for residents (\$43,000), and a portion of the William Land Park (\$30,000) tree pruning and removal needs.
- Analysis of previous years' work orders, DED trends, and maintenance needs indicate that the tree pruning and removal services contract should have a not-to-exceed amount of \$550,000 to \$600,000 per contract year. Staff is preparing to obtain bids for this service that reflect the increased maintenance needs for future contracts.

Staff believes that it is in the City's best interests to suspend competitive bidding for tree pruning and removal services in the amount of \$160,000 to enable Urban Forest Services Staff to address the immediate public safety issues presented by the higher than anticipated incidences of DED trees and summer branch drop by allowing for safer, more efficient, and timely management of the City's urban forest.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 3, 2006

Increase Contract Amount for Tree Pruning and Removal Services

BACKGROUND

- A. The City of Sacramento has an estimated 120,000 street and parks trees. In order to effectively manage and maintain the health of the urban forest, City Council awarded a contract to West Coast Arborists, Inc. for tree pruning and removal services (City Agreement No. 2005-0197), on December 6, 2005, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$330,000 per contract year.
- B. Due to higher than anticipated incidences of Dutch elm diseased trees requiring removal and summer branch drop resulting from unexpectedly hot summer temperatures, it is necessary to increase the not-to-exceed amount of City Agreement 2005-0197 by \$160,000 from \$330,000 to \$490,000 for the current contract year.
- C. The additional \$160,000 will be used by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Urban Forest Services to pay for annual and emergency tree pruning and removal as required to maintain the City of Sacramento's urban forest.
- D. It is in the City's best interest to suspend competitive bidding for tree pruning and removal services in the amount of \$160,000 to enable Urban Forest Services Staff to address the immediate public safety issues presented by the higher than anticipated incidences of DED trees and summer branch drop by allowing for safer, more efficient, and timely management of the City's urban forest.

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

- Section 1. In the best interest of the City, competitive bidding is suspended for tree pruning and removal services in the amount of \$160,000.
- Section 2. The not-to-exceed amount of the existing tree pruning and removal services contract between the City and West Coast Arborists, Inc., (City Agreement No. 2005-0197) is increased from \$330,000 to \$490,000 for the current contract year.
- Section 2. The Procurement Services Manager is hereby authorized to issue a Purchase Order to West Coast Arborists, Inc., 2200 E. Via Burton Street, Anaheim, CA 92806, in an amount not to exceed \$160,000 for the current

contract year for the additional tree pruning and removal services required by Urban Forest Services Staff pursuant to City Agreement No. 2005-0197.

