



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 27, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
Subject: Contract: West Coast Arborists, Inc. for Tree Removal and Pruning Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with West Coast Arborists, Inc. for tree removal and pruning services in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 over a period of three years, with an option to renew for two additional years at \$500,000 per year, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract is available in the FY 2024 Parks Tax Fund (Fund 138) and General Fund (Fund 011) Fire Fuel. Funding is subject to appropriation in the FY 2025-FY 2027 budgets in the Parks Tax (Fund 138) and General Fund (Fund 011).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current contract for tree and stump removal services, with West Coast Arborists, terminated on November 24, 2023. In November of 2023, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process to solicit tree removal and pruning services (Specification No. 23-11588-C). On December 19, 2023, the City received twelve bids. City staff determined that the proposal from West Coast Arborists, Inc. best meets the criteria described in the RFP. Therefore, staff recommends that a new contract be authorized.

BACKGROUND

The Urban Forestry Unit of the Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department contracts with private companies for the removal of public trees that are dead, diseased, dying, and hazardous to life or property, or causing substantial property damage. Tree removal and pruning services reduce the potential risks posed by trees and help to maintain a healthy urban forest throughout the City. The City has contracted for tree removal services for the past 23 years because it is more cost effective to do so and the City does not need to procure costly and specialized tree removal equipment. Services will be provided on an as-needed basis to be determined by the Parks Division, Urban Forestry Unit. The number of trees removed each year varies.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Section D.2 in chapter 3 of the City's **Climate Action Plan** seeks to promote tree planting, landscaping, and the creation of green and open space that is safe and attractive and that helps to restore natural processes with significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production as well as storm water retention, and climate control. This services contract is an essential component in the proper maintenance of the City's urban forest.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

City staff determined that the proposal from West Coast Arborists, Inc. best meets the criteria described in the RFP. Additionally, this contract service will expand the City's capacity to respond to emergencies, such as extreme or prolonged storms, that might otherwise exceed the limited capacity of the City's Urban Forestry Unit resources.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Bruce Pratt, Parks Superintendent, 510-981-6632
Thomas Dodge, Senior Forestry Supervisor, 510-981-6689

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: TREE REMOVAL AND PRUNING SERVICES WITH WEST COAST ARBORISTS, INC

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Unit of the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department contracts with private companies for the removal of public trees that are dead, diseased, dying, hazardous to life or property, or causing substantial property damage; and the pruning of specific public trees to improve their safety; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted out this service for the past 23 years because it is more cost effective to hire an outside contractor than to use City employees; and

WHEREAS, the current contract with West Coast Arborists for public tree removal and pruning services terminate on November 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2023, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process to solicit tree removal and pruning services (Specification No. 23-11588-C). On December 19, 2023, the City received twelve bids. City staff determined that the proposal from West Coast Arborists, Inc. best meets the criteria described in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, funding for this contract is available in the FY 2024 Parks Tax Fund (Fund 138) and General Fund (Fund 011) Fire Fuel. Funding is subject to appropriation in the FY 2025- FY 2027 budgets in the Parks Tax (Fund 138) and General Fund (Fund 011).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with West Coast Arborists, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for a period of three years, with an option to renew for two additional years at \$500,000 per year, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,500,000, contingent upon annual budget appropriation. A record signature copy of said contract will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

