



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 8, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Abraham Roman, Fire Chief  
 Subject: Contract – Wildland Res Mgmt. for Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Wildland Res Mgmt. (Contractor) to provide Community Wildfire Protection Plan and associated analytics for the Berkeley Fire Department (Department) for an initial base contract period of one year, from February 9, 2022 to February 8, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 with an option to extend for an additional four years in two-year increments and a total not to exceed \$400,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The base term of this contract is one year and runs from February 9, 2022 to February 8, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. There is an option to extend for an additional four years for a total term of five years. Funding for the employee wellness program is budgeted in the from the Measure FF, 164-72-742-835-0000-000-422-612990.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There are extreme threats to the entire Berkeley community from a wildfire that starts in or adjacent one of the City's hazardous fire zones. The fire threat is complex and dynamic as the environment changes with global warming. While effective prevention measures may seem obvious, contracting with experts to review the threat of wildfire, risk analysis, need for action, and community support is the proper way to proceed prior to spending a large amount of tax payer funding.

The community voted to support a comprehensive approach to this risk by passing Measure FF in November of 2020. This contract will provide the Department and the community with a roadmap to becoming as fire safe and resilient as possible through engagement of relevant stakeholders, initial and on-going risk and hazard analysis and a comprehensive CWPP.

The Department expects to have an actionable CWPP within nine (9) months.

## BACKGROUND

The community voted to support a comprehensive approach to this risk by passing Measure FF in November of 2020. This contract will provide the Department and the Community with the roadmap to becoming as fire safe and resilient as possible through engagement of relevant stakeholders, expert analysis and a comprehensive CWPP.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Preventing or limiting the size of a wildfire within our community has enormous positive impacts to the environment.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department applied for and was granted a waiver of solicitation by the City Manager. After analysis, the Department suggested contracting with Wildland Res Mgt who has a long history of identifying Wildland Fire Hazard and risk in our local region, and across the state.

Wildland Res Mgt is a consulting firm that emphasizes wildland fire management in the urban-wildland interface. Several projects entailed preparation of fire management plans for large landowners in areas of sensitive species and concerned communities. Other projects have involved the use of state-of-the-art fire behavior prediction systems or developed training programs.

Carol Rice, and Wildland Res Mgt have developed a notable "track record" and is respected for the quality of work produced; a section of projects follows. In addition, Cheryl Miller, RLA will be assisting this effort. Ms. Miller is currently the staff providing essential services to the Hills Emergency Forum, and is the Executive Director of the Diablo Fire Safe Council. In these capacities, she has worked with all jurisdictions neighboring the City of Berkeley to secure funding, develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans and develop Firewise Communities.

Below you will find a partial list of their projects including many that involve the City of Berkeley and its neighbors. Wildland Res Mgt is a local expert with significant existing regional knowledge and contacts would add significant value to the Berkeley project.

- Fire Mitigation Program Support, University of California, Berkeley
- Technical Support for Preparation of Environmental Documents, City of Oakland, Hills Emergency Forum, and Claremont Canyon Conservancy
- Wildland Fire Management Plan and Update to the Fire Hazard Reduction Plan, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and Programmatic EIR/EIS East Bay Regional Park District, through LSA, Inc.
- Fire Behavior Modeling of Wildland Interface Fuels, Moraga Orinda Fire Department
- Fire Hazard Reduction Study, Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Environmental Compliance Strategy and Best Management Practices Development for Fire Management Projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Diablo Fire Safe Council, through EDAW, Inc. (now AECOM)

- Parcel-based Risk Assessment, Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Protection District
- Fire Behavior Modeling, Gaming, City of Oakland, through Amphion, Inc.
- Vegetation Management Plan of the East Bay Hills, Consortium of the Cities of Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont, and East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, and University of California, through Amphion, Inc.
- Litigation Support For Fire Management Considerations After the Oakland Fire. Larson & Burnham.
- Homeowner Education Program and Hazard Reduction Guidelines Development; Berkeley City Fire Department
- Evaluation of Fire Behavior in the Berkeley/Oakland Hills; East Bay Regional Park District

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSONS

Abraham Roman, Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Chris Pinto, Retired Annuitant, (510) 981-3473

Attachments:

1. Resolution

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

CONTRACT: WILDLAND RES MGMT. FOR A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION  
PLAN AND ASSOCIATED ANALYTICS

WHEREAS, there are extreme threats to the entire Berkeley community from a wildfire that starts in or adjacent to one of the City’s hazardous fire zones, and

WHEREAS, the fire threat is complex and dynamic as the environment changes with global warming, and

WHEREAS, while effective prevention measures may seem obvious, contracting with experts to review the threat of wildfire, values at risk, need for action, and community support is the proper way to proceed prior to spending a large amount of tax payer funding, and

WHEREAS, the community voted to support a comprehensive approach to this risk by passing Measure FF in November of 2020, and

WHEREAS, this contract will provide the Department and the community with a roadmap to becoming as fire safe and resilient as possible through engagement of relevant stakeholders, initial and on-going risk and hazard analysis and a comprehensive CWPP.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Wildland Res Mgmt. (Contractor) to provide Community Wildfire Protection Plan and associated analytics for the Berkeley Fire Department (Department) for an initial base contract period of one year, from February 9, 2022 to February 8, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 with an option to extend for an additional four years in two-year increments and a total not to exceed \$400,000.