



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 26, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief  
Subject: Contract: Marina Landscape for Wildfire Safe Model Garden Construction at Firehouse #4

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to award a contract and execute any amendments, extensions, or change orders with Marina Landscape in an amount not-to-exceed \$275,000 over a two-year period, to provide landscaping, irrigation installation, grading, and the removal of previous vegetation around Berkeley Firehouse #4.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract exists within the Fire Department's FY 2024 General Fund budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On September 20, 2023, the City of Berkeley released a Request for Proposals (RFP) Specification Number 24-11622-C for Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project.

The City received valid proposals from three respondents for this solicitation which were opened on October 26th, 2023. Staff assessed the proposals according to the selection criteria in the RFP, including project standing and approach, client references, qualifications and experience, scope of work, and price proposal. Based on a thorough review, including interviews and reference checks, staff recommends awarding a contract to Marina Landscape.

BACKGROUND

Creating and maintaining Defensible Space around homes in Very High Fire Danger Severity Zones is one of the most influential factors in how rapidly a wildfire spreads through a community in a Wildland Urban Interface. Defensible space acts as a buffer around structures from wildfire and embers. They are intentionally planned areas that reduce the danger of ignition during a wildfire and allow firefighters a better chance of protecting a home. Zone 0 (0-5 feet from a structure) has been scientifically proven to

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be the most critical area reduce and remove combustibles from to improve the survivability of a structure during wildfire.

There are very few properties in Berkeley that have implemented model Defensible Space practices, and almost none that have implemented Zone 0 standards. This is because the State Board of Forestry has yet to adopt Zone 0 into the State's Fire Code and there is a lack of landscape architects and contractors that have experience with this type of design in the immediate area.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

All construction shall conform to the 2019 California Building, Fire, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Energy Code, California Building Code and Green Building Code.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The project was identified as an action item in the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and will provide residents examples of fire safe landscaping practices that are compliant with the Fire Code and best practices, including Zone 0. This project represents one of the ways that the City can help residents see and experience some examples of what right looks like.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

#### CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department, (510) 981-3483

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: MARINA LANDSCAPE

WHEREAS, creating and maintaining Defensible Space around homes in Very High Fire Danger Severity Zones is one of the most influential factors in how rapidly a wildfire spreads through a community in a Wildland Urban Interface, and

WHEREAS, Defensible space acts as a buffer around structures from wildfire and embers. They are intentionally planned areas that reduce the danger of ignition during a wildfire and allow firefighters a better chance of protecting a home. Zone 0 (0-5 feet from a structure) has been scientifically proven to be the most critical area reduce and remove combustibles from to improve the survivability of a structure during wildfire, and

WHEREAS, there are very few properties in Berkeley that have implemented model Defensible Space practices, and almost none that have implemented Zone 0 standards, and

WHEREAS, the project was identified as an action item in the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and will provide residents examples of fire safe landscaping practices that are compliant with the Fire Code and best practices, including Zone 0, and

WHEREAS, Specification Number 24-11622-C for Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project was released on September 20, 2023 and the City received valid proposals from three respondents for this solicitation which were opened on October 26th, 2023, and

WHEREAS, staff assessed the proposals according to the selection criteria in the RFP, including project standing and approach, client references, qualifications and experience, scope of work, and price proposal. Based on a thorough review, including interviews and reference checks, staff recommends awarding a contract to Marina Landscape.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or their designee is authorized to award a contract and execute any amendments, extensions, or change orders with Marina Landscape in an amount not-to-exceed \$275,000 over a two-year period, to provide landscaping, irrigation installation, grading, and the removal of previous vegetation around Berkeley Firehouse #4.

