



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
January 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief
Subject: Reject All Bids and Negotiate with Contractors for the Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project, Specification No. 24-11622-C

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the action taken by the City Manager during recess to reject all bids and direct staff to negotiate with contractors for the work associated with the Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project Specification No. 24-11622-C.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

The cost of construction continues to rise and every month we delay may result in a more expensive implementation cost to the City. Additionally, the Department is working to have this project completed prior to the 2024 Defensible Space Inspection program launches to provide an example garden to residents, a delay until January would make this extremely challenging to achieve.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding is available through Measure FF.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project was advertised for bids on September 20, 2023 and bids were opened on October 26th, 2023. The Berkeley Fire Department received three bids for the project. All contractor bids are higher than available funding and therefore the project cannot proceed. Staff recommends that Council reject all bids and authorize the Berkeley Fire Department to negotiate with all contractors who have provided a bid proposal for this project.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Fire Landscape Project will provide residents examples of Fire Safe gardening practices that are compliant with the Fire Code and best practices, including Zone 0 (0-5 feet from a structure). 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.

There are very few properties in Berkeley that have implemented model Defensible Space practices. This is partly due to a lack of landscape architects and contractors that have experience with this type of design in the East Bay. This project represents one of the ways that the City can help residents understand some examples of what right looks like.

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 City is not able to accept the contractor bids because it exceeds the City's available funding for the project. The City does not have the in-house labor or equipment resources to complete this landscape project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

REJECT ALL BIDS AND NEGOTIATE WITH CONTRACTORS FOR THE BERKELEY
FIRE STATION LANDSCAPE PROJECT, SPECIFICATION NO. 24-11622-C

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Landscape Project will provide residents examples of Fire Safe gardening practices that are compliant with the Fire Code and best practices, including Zone 0 (0-5 feet from a structure). 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; and

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager during recess to reject all bids and direct staff to negotiate with contractors for the work associated with the Berkeley Fire Station Landscape Project Specification No. 24-11622-C.

