



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 30, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works

Subject: Contract No. 9703 Amendment: Duke's Root Control, Inc. for Chemical Root Control to Sanitary Sewer Lines

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No. 9703 with Duke's Root Control, Inc., increasing expenditure authority by \$30,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$75,000, and extending the contract expiration date to June 30, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for the amendment is available in the Sanitary Sewer Operation Fund 830-5503-432-3038 in FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Original Contract Amount	\$45,000
Proposed Increase	\$30,000
Total Expense Budget for Contract	\$75,000

This contract has been entered into the City's contract management system as CMS No. GYXLE.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There are 44,030 households in the City of Berkeley. The City maintains approximately 257 miles of sewer mains and 40,000 lower sewer laterals in the sanitary sewer system. As of March 1, 2017, about 85% of those sewer mains and laterals have been rehabilitated. The remaining 20% of the system is comprised of vitrified clay pipe (VCP) that requires chemical root foaming to control the influx of roots from trees and other vegetation, and to extend the longevity of the sewer system. The chemical root control used by Duke's Root Control, Inc. (Duke's) within the City's sanitary sewer lines helps

prevent sewer overflows and backups.<sup>1</sup> The chemical kills roots in blocked pipes on contact and over time, decayed roots are carried out with the flow of the pipe, thereby restoring the pipe to its full capacity. This method also leaves a foaming barrier on the pipe walls to prevent future root growth.

#### BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley is heavily planted throughout with numerous trees and vegetation that provide the benefits of improved aesthetics, shade and increased oxygen. They also have a detrimental effect, however, caused by the incursion of roots that perpetually grow into City sewer lines causing sewer backups or overflows. The State of California and the City of Berkeley have both approved the use of Diquat Dibromide to control or eliminate vegetative growth in sewer lines without disrupting wastewater treatment, or permanently damaging the vegetation producing the roots.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Duke's meets the State of California and the City of Berkeley's requirements and provides an environmentally safe chemical product to treat City sewer lines. In addition, by preventing sewer overflows, this service also protects storm water from contamination.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Duke's offers the City a professional cost-effective solution to maintaining the City's sewer lines by inhibiting root re-growth. Duke's has 40 years of experience, and has provided excellent service to the City during the contract term.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. This type of sewer line root control is specialized and staff do not have the equipment or training to perform this service.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works (510) 981-6303  
Kem Loong, Superintendent of Streets & Utilities, Public Works Department (510) 981-6479

#### Attachments:

1: Resolution

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<sup>1</sup> Diquat Dibromide, a nonselective, fast-acting desiccant herbicide, which damages only the parts of a plant to which it is applied.

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

CONTRACT NO. 9703 AMENDMENT: DUKE'S ROOT CONTROL, INC FOR CHEMICAL  
ROOT CONTROL FOR CITY OF BERKELEY SANITARY SEWER LINE SERVICES

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2014 after a formal Request for Proposals process (Specification No. 14-10867), Duke's Root Control, Inc. was selected through the City's competitive bid process and the City Manager executed the contract for a three year term to provide chemical root control for the City of Berkeley's sanitary sewer lines in an amount not to exceed \$45,000; and

WHEREAS, chemical root control to sanitary sewers in the City of Berkeley is needed to control root growth present in the lines to inhibit re-growth without permanently damaging root-producing vegetation and without disrupting wastewater treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, the contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary to properly treat the sanitary sewer pipelines with an EPA registered product approved by the State of California; and

WHEREAS, funds for this amendment will be available from Sewer Fund 830 in FY 2018 and FY 2019 and this contract amendment has been entered into the City's contract management system as CMS No. GYXLE.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to amend Contract No. 9730, with Duke's Root Control, Inc. increasing the amount by \$30,000 for a total not to exceed \$75,000, and to extend the contract expiration date to June 30, 2019.

