



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 16, 2018

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: Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance for Hazardous Vegetation Reduction Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance for removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas over a period of three years, with an option to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms, for a total amount not to exceed \$825,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$155,000 is available in the Parks Tax Fund 450-5809-450.30-38 and \$10,000 in the Marina Fund 825-5905-450.30-38 for the first year of the contract in FY 2019. In future years, funds will be budgeted annually at these levels for a total not to exceed \$825,000. The CMS number is CMS No. LTQAI.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On July 27, 2018, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas (Specification No. 18-11225-C). On August 29, 2018, the City received one bid, from Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance. Staff have determined that Freitas is a responsible and responsive bidder. Therefore, staff recommends that a new contract with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance be authorized.

BACKGROUND

On June 9, 1992, the City Council of the City of Berkeley authorized the creation of the Fire Fuel Management Program for public properties in response to the Oakland Hills Firestorm Disaster of October 1991. The program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff, and therefore uses contracted services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Chapter 1 of the City's Climate Action Plan acknowledges that California will experience a rise in wildfires due to climate change. Additionally, this program preserves natural habitat by removing unwanted invasive plant species and vegetative debris that are recycled and converted into usable compost. This services contract is an essential component in the proper maintenance of the City's numerous green and open spaces.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department has evaluated the ongoing needs for hazardous vegetation mitigation and has determined that Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance meets the requirements as set out in the bid specification (18-11225-C).

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Susan Ferrera, Parks Superintendent, 981-6667

Nyles Gregory, Senior Landscape Maintenance Supervisor, 981-6684

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: HAZARDOUS VEGETATION REDUCTION SERVICES – FREITAS
LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, on June 9, 1992, the City Council of the City of Berkeley authorized the creation of the Fire Fuel Management Program for public properties in response to the Oakland Hills Firestorm Disaster of October 1991; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff, and therefore uses contracted services; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2018, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas (Specification No. 18-11225-C). On August 29, 2018, the City received one bid, from Freitas Lanscaping and Maintenance. Staff have determined that Freitas is a responsible and responsive bidder; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$155,000 is available in the Parks Tax Fund 450-5809-450.30-38 and \$10,000 in the Marina Fund 825-5905-450.30-38 for the first year of the contract in FY 2019. In future years, funds will be budgeted annually at these levels for a total not to exceed \$825,000. The CMS number is CMS # LTQAI.

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 Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance for a period of three years, with an option to extend the contract for two additional years, for a total not to exceed of \$825,000. A record signature copy of said contract will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

