



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief

Subject: Contract: As-Needed Hazardous Fire Fuel Treatment with California Tree Solutions, Mountain Enterprises Inc., Small World Tree Co., and Bay Area Tree Specialists

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt four Resolutions authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute the following contracts and any amendments for As-Needed Hazardous Fire Fuel Treatment and removal from May 18, 2024, to May 17, 2028, for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.

1. California Tree Solutions in the amount of \$1,000,000;
2. Mountain Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$1,000,000;
3. Small World Tree Co. in the amount of \$1,000,000; and
4. Bay Area Tree Specialists in the amount of \$1,000,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding is available in the Fire Department budget using Measure FF funds, the Hills Overlay Assessment, and grant funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On October 13, 2023, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulation and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways, evacuation routes and landscaped areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C). Staff has since re-issued the RFQ on January 29, 2024 to solicit additional proposals for vendors qualified for defensible space work to complement the tree removal vendors that submitted quotes for tree care and removal.

On February 15, 2024, the City received five quotes. Staff determined that California Tree Solutions, Mountain Enterprises Inc., Small World Tree Co., and Bay Area Tree Specialists met the criteria for a significant portion of the work needed. Staff

Contract: As-Needed Hazardous Fire Fuel Treatment

recommends that new contracts with California Tree Solutions, Mountain Enterprises Inc., Small World Tree Co., and Bay Area Tree Specialists be authorized.

The as-needed hazardous vegetation management and removal services are Strategic Plan Priority Projects, advancing our goals to

- create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city,
- champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.
- be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

### BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Fire Chief prioritized a FireSafe Berkeley initiative that includes hazardous fire fuel treatment and vegetation removal in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, increased inspections and compliance, defensible space treatment assistance for residents who demonstrate financial or physical hardship, and public education on vegetation management practices. The City has since been awarded a grant for the hazardous vegetation removal along evacuation routes on and near Grizzly Peak. These contracts assist with the objectives of removing hazardous vegetation accumulation and managing other vegetation in high-risk areas of the community and City-owned parks, pathways, and evacuation routes. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff and therefore uses contracted services.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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 habitats by removing unwanted invasive plant species and vegetative debris that are recycled and converted into usable compost. These services contract is an essential component in the proper maintenance of the City's landscape.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Fire and The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Departments have evaluated the ongoing needs for hazardous vegetation mitigation and other vegetation management and determined California Tree Solutions, Mountain Enterprises Inc., Small World Tree Co., and Bay Area Tree Specialists help fulfill the requirements as set out in the RFP.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

### CONTACT PERSON

Shanalee Gallagher, Program Manager, Fire Department, 510-981-3473

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**Attachments:**

- 1: Resolution – California Tree Solutions
- 2: Resolution – Mountain Enterprises Inc.
- 3: Resolution – Small World Tree Co.
- 4: Resolution – Bay Area Tree Specialists

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

CONTRACT: CALIFORNIA TREE SOLUTIONS FOR AS-NEEDED HAZARDOUS FIRE  
FUEL TREATMENT

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Fire Chief initiated a FireSafe Berkeley and prioritized the reduction of hazardous vegetation removal; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C); and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2024, the City received five (5) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that California Tree Solutions met the criteria described in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the desired landscape maintenance firms will be available on an on-call basis over a four-year period for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the Fire Department budget using Measure FF funds, the Hills Overlay Assessment, and grant funds.

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 California Tree Solutions, for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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

CONTRACT: MOUNTAIN ENTERPRISES INC FOR AS-NEEDED HAZARDOUS FIRE  
FUEL TREATMENT

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Fire Chief initiated a FireSafe Berkeley and prioritized the reduction of hazardous vegetation removal; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C); and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2024, the City received five (5) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that Mountain Enterprises Inc. met the criteria described in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the desired landscape maintenance firms will be available on an on-call basis over a four-year period for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the Fire Department budget using Measure FF funds, the Hills Overlay Assessment, and grant funds.

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 Mountain Enterprises Inc, for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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

CONTRACT: SMALL WORLD TREE CO. FOR AS-NEEDED HAZARDOUS FIRE FUEL TREATMENT

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Fire Chief initiated a FireSafe Berkeley and prioritized the reduction of hazardous vegetation removal; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C); and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2024, the City received five (5) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that Small World Tree Co. met the criteria described in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the desired landscape maintenance firms will be available on an on-call basis over a four-year period for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the Fire Department budget using Measure FF funds, the Hills Overlay Assessment, and grant funds.

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 Small World Tree Co., for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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

CONTRACT: BAY AREA TREE SPECIALISTS FOR AS-NEEDED HAZARDOUS FIRE  
FUEL TREATMENT

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Fire Chief initiated a FireSafe Berkeley and prioritized the reduction of hazardous vegetation removal; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a Request for Quote (RFQ) competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C); and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2024, the City received five (5) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that Bay Area Tree Specialists met the criteria described in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the desired landscape maintenance firms will be available on an on-call basis over a four-year period for a cumulative amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, funding is available in the Fire Department budget using Measure FF funds, the Hills Overlay Assessment, and grant funds.

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 Bay Area Tree Specialists, for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

