



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Contract Award for Weed Control Services

1. Motion Authorizing the Interim City Manager, or a designee, to execute a contract with Pest Options, Inc. in the amount of \$122,400 annually for a period of three years or \$367,200 total, for Weed Control Services for the City of Glendale.
2. Resolution of appropriation to appropriate funds for Weed Control Services for the City of Glendale.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for November 17, 2020 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

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Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

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Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., Interim City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the City Council approve the following a Motion Authorizing the Interim City Manager, or a designee, to execute a contract with Pest Options, Inc. in the amount of \$122,400 annually for a period of three years or \$367,200 total, for Weed Control Services and a Resolution of appropriation to appropriate \$10,200 from the Landscaping District Fund Balance for Weed Control Services in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On July 28, 2020, City Council approved Specification No. 3868 for Weed Control Services for the City of Glendale, and directed the City Clerk to advertise for bids. Public Works revised the specifications at the City Council's request to more clearly prohibit glyphosate-based products and the most highly toxic pesticides, as well as requiring a base bid and alternate bid. The base bid would allow non-glyphosate chemical herbicidal treatments, approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the work. The alternate bid would only consist of organic herbicidal treatments and mechanical abatement.

To ensure competitive bids, the City advertised the project on the City's website and Glendale Independent news press. The City hosted a mandatory pre-bid meeting online on October 5, 2020, and registered attendees included representatives from eight weed control companies, but only received one bid from Pest Options, Inc. of Orange, CA with a base bid of \$122,400 annually and an alternate bid of \$372,600 annually.

The City contacted a portion of the companies that did not submit bids, with the most common explanation for opting not to bid being that the size of this project in Glendale, as the fourth largest City in Los Angeles County, was very large. The standard City bid specifications require responsible bidders to have projects comparable in scope and size. While limiting in this case, this criterion is important to ensure bidders are capable of performing the advertised work.

Upon review of Pest Options, Inc. bid documents, Staff finds the bid to be responsive and from a responsible bidder. The base bid in the amount of \$122,400 annually is in line with the staff estimate for the scope of work and services requested prior to the Council-directed scope of service modifications.

Staff has conformed with the State of California's Department of Pesticide Regulation that the licenses of Pest Options, Inc. are current, active, and in good standing. Additionally, their current municipal projects and references indicate a company able to satisfactorily perform the services required by the City of Glendale, such as current contracts with the Cities of Simi Valley and Irvine. Pest Options, Inc. also staffs certified arborists and pest control advisors, which will ensure City and trees and vegetation on private property are not harmed by weed abatement nearby.

Staff recommends accepting the base bid. The bidder's approach is thorough and additional costs as compared to the previous contract were expected, both due to changed scope of services and the shift away from glyphosate. Previously, the inexpensive and commonly available glyphosate was the primary herbicide used for treatment. Even so, the previous contractor had suggested to the City in 2019 that prices could increase by 60% with glyphosate treatments, due mainly to prevailing wage requirements and the general increased cost of doing business. While shifting to non-glyphosate treatments is more expensive, the low bidder's reputation and approach is such that the City should expect to see a return on its investment both visually and in the way of increasing its environmental sustainability.

There is also an expansion of the scope of services from the previous contract to include weed abatement services in the North San Fernando Road Corridor Landscape Maintenance District. Previously, City staff were responsible for weed abatement within this 5-acre, high-traffic area. With this upcoming contract, the successful bidder will perform more frequent weed abatement in the area. Staff expects the visual improvement to be immediate, and the health of City trees will likewise benefit from the increased attention and lessened competition from weeds, increasing their value to the City.

The alternate bid, consisting of organic herbicidal treatments, will impose significant additional expense due to increased need for multiple treatments, the high cost of organic herbicides, and considerable additional manual labor. Staff does not recommend pursuing this alternative bid for this contract term. Currently, no organic herbicide is pre-emergent, which means the contractor would need to survey the City on a monthly basis to spot-treat grown weeds, then manually abate each weed by spraying it, as opposed to the base bid where regular chemical treatments would be performed quarterly in combination with spot treatment. These organic treatments are unfortunately not yet time or cost effective on a large scale for a City with over 700 acres of right-of-way.

With the treatments proposed in the base bid, the contractor will be able to apply EPA-approved and pre-emergent treatments to problem areas to reduce costs to the City and reduce the need for additional repeated visits, with the added benefit of avoiding unsightly and invasive weeds sprouting across the City at increased frequency. This, in combination with manual and other-post emergent abatement methods, will ensure Glendale right-of-ways stay free of weeds while moving beyond the use of glyphosate.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual cost for this project is \$122,400 which equates to \$367,200 for the 3-year contract duration. \$35,000 has been budgeted for this contract in FY 20-21 in Public Works Department, General Fund, Contractual Services, Street Tree Maintenance Account. Staff projects the new contract will commence on January 1, 2021 meaning only six months of funding for the contract in FY 2020-21 is needed. Therefore, a Resolution of Appropriation is recommended as follows:

| Account Description | Account String | From | To |
|---|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Landscaping District, SF Landscaping Fund | 24213-2530-000 | \$10,200 | |
| Contractual Services, SF Landscaping Fund, PW Department, Street Tree Maintenance | 43110-2530-PWD-7507 | | \$10,200 |

The additional \$16,000 needed for the contract will be absorbed by the current Public Works Department General Fund appropriation. Staff will request funding for this contract in future fiscal years as part of the annual budget process. The annual amounts are \$102,000 in the General Fund (43110-1010-PWD-7507) and \$20,400 in the San Fernando Landscaping Fund (43110-2530-PWD-7507).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve the attached Motion and Resolution. The project will beautify and maintain City right-of-ways to be free of weeds.

Alternative 2: Do not approve the attached Motion and Resolution. City right-of-ways will continue to be spot-treated by mechanical means by City staff and have significant weed growth and spread.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

N/A

EXHIBITS

N/A