



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Dispensing with Competitive Bidding and Authorizing a One-Year Extension of A Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services Contract

1. Resolution Dispensing with Competitive Bidding, and Authorizing a One-Year Extension of Contract No. C106241A with West Coast Arborists, Inc., for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services for Glendale Water and Power for an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 for the one-year term through August 2022.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for June 29, 2021 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

John Takhtalian, Interim General Manager, Glendale Water and Power

Prepared by:

Daniel Scorza, P.E., Chief Assistant General Manager - Electric

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

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

RECOMMENDATION

Glendale Water and Power (GWP) staff respectfully recommends that the City Council dispense with competitive bidding, and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an amendment to the Contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA), for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services for Glendale Water and Power to extend the Contract term for an additional one year through August 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

One of the most common causes of unplanned outages to the electrical system is tree branches making contact with power lines. As part of GWP's reliability and wildfire mitigation program, the City contracts with certified arborists to trim trees that encroach near high voltage power lines to prevent and mitigate potential outages. GWP has an ongoing program to trim trees and, in some cases, remove trees from under and around its overhead power lines, as mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Senate Bill (SB) 901 for electric system reliability and wildfire safety.

Per California SB 901, GWP is required to develop, maintain, and implement a formal Wildfire Mitigation Plan. One of GWP's primary tools in lowering wildfire risk is through vegetation management: reducing the likelihood of overhead power lines coming in contact with trees or otherwise sparking wildfires. GWP's program is based on a periodic schedule, and the tree trimming is tailored to the type of tree that needs to be trimmed. Substantial resources and a high degree of expertise are required to perform this type of work.

On July 19, 2016, following a competitive bid process, the City Council awarded a five-year contract to WCA to furnish equipment and labor for tree trimming and removal services for power line clearances, and for tree removal services for water facilities under Specification No. 3599. In October 2019, SB 247 added Section 8386.6 to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

8386.6. (a) All electrical line clearance tree trimmers performing work to comply with the vegetation management requirements in an electrical corporation's wildfire mitigation plan shall be qualified line clearance tree trimmers, or trainees under the direct supervision and instruction of qualified line clearance tree trimmers, as provided in the High-Voltage Electrical Safety Orders (Group 2 (commencing with Section 2700) of Subchapter 5 of Chapter 4 of Division 1 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations) of the Department of Industrial Relations.

(b) All qualified line clearance tree trimmers shall be paid no less than the prevailing wage rate for a first period apprentice electrical utility lineman as determined by the Director of Industrial Relations.

As a result of SB 247, in May 2020, City Council approved an Amendment to the

Contract with WCA and authorized a Resolution of Appropriation to cover the costs associated with the new increased labor rates for continued power line clearance tree trimming services through the remainder of the contract term, which is due to expire in August 2021. The Schedule of Compensation provided by WCA at the time of the Amendment fixes the prices through August 23, 2022 and allows for an option to continue the Contract after 2022 in one-year increments on mutual consent with an increase in the service rates based upon the latest Consumer Price Index.

Staff recognizes the implications an interruption of the services to clear vegetation from high voltage power lines would have on its electric system reliability efforts and wildfire mitigation program, and is revising the current Specification to include attributes of the wildfire mitigation program not included in the Specification when advertised for bids in 2016. The new Specification will include important updates and expectations which have evolved the power line clearance tree trimming expectations during the past five years. Staff will then seek Council approval for the new Specification and award a new contract through a formal competitive bid process during Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Article VI, Section 9 of the Glendale Charter provides that: "Upon recommendation of the City Manager, the council may dispense with competitive bidding for any contract when it determines that it is in the best interests of the city so to do and acts by resolution setting forth the reason for such action." Dispensing with competitive bidding and authorizing a one-year extension of the existing contract with WCA is in the City's best interest in order to maintain essential power line clearance services and mitigate fire risk while a new bid process is completed and a new contract awarded and executed. The previous Amendment to the WCA contract brought the contract in line with current prevailing wage rates, and the proposed Amendment would keep the current rates through August 2022.

Therefore, staff respectfully recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an amendment to Contract No. C106241A with WCA for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services for GWP to extend the Contract term for an additional one year through August 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services have been budgeted in the Contractual Services, Electric Works Revenue Fund, GWP Electric OH & UG, 43110-5820-GWP-4660-P0000-T0000-F1580, in the amount of \$2,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: The City Council may dispense with competitive bidding and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an amendment to the Contract with WCA, for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Removal Services for GWP to extend the Contract term for an additional one year through August 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

Alternative 2: The City Council may decline to amend the contract with WCA to extend the Contract term for an additional one year. This would result in discontinued or reduced power line clearance tree trimming operations while the City solicits bids for a new power line clearance tree trimming and removal services contractor prior to the current Contract expiration in August 2021. Staff does not recommend this alternative.

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

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the City Campaign Finance Ordinance No. 5744, the following are the names and business addresses of the members of the board of directors, the chairperson, CEO, COO, CFO, Subcontractors and any person or entity with more than ten percent interest in the company proposed for contract in this agenda item report:

Officers of **West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA)**:

Full Name	Title	Business Address	City	State	Zip
Patrick Mahoney	CEO/President	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806
Richard Mahoney	Chief Operating Officer	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806
Rose Epperson	Chief Financial Officer	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806

Ownership Interest in more than 10% in **West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA)**:

Full Name	Title	Business Address	City	State	Zip
Patrick Mahoney	CEO/President	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806
Richard Mahoney	Chief Operating Officer	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806
Rose Epperson	Chief Financial Officer	2200 E. Via Burton	Anaheim	CA	92806

EXHIBIT(S)

None applicable.