



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Construction Services for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming.

1. Resolution adopting Specification No. 3847 for Construction Services for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming, and directing the City Clerk to advertise for bids.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for March 22, 2022 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current power line clearance tree trimming construction contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) expires on August 23, 2022. To continue this vital aspect of Glendale Water & Power Department's (GWP) electric service reliability and Wildfire Mitigation Program, staff has prepared Specification No. 3847 for power line clearance tree trimming services.

This specification includes the applicable California Department of Industrial Relations' Prevailing Wage Determination No. C-TT-61-47-3-2020-1. The current annual budget for power line clearance tree trimming services is \$2,500,000.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Infrastructure & Mobility: The Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming Program protects GWP's electric distribution system from trees that encroach near high voltage power lines and mitigates potential outages from tree branches making contact with power lines.

Safe & Healthy Community: Per California Senate Bill 901, GWP is required to develop, maintain, and implement a formal Wildfire Mitigation Plan. One of GWP's primary tools for lowering wildfire risk is through vegetation management and by reducing the likelihood of overhead power lines coming into contact with trees or otherwise sparking wildfires.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopt Specification No. 3847 for Construction Services for Power Line Clearance Tree Trimming, and direct the City Clerk to advertise for bids. Specification No. 3847 will be on file and available at GWP - Electrical Engineering Office.

BACKGROUND

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 power outages. GWP has an ongoing program to trim trees and, in some cases, remove trees from under and around 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 by 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.

In 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. On June 29, 2021, the City Council authorized an amendment to Contract No. C106241A with WCA to extend the Contract term for an additional one year for an amount not to exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) for the one-year term through August 2022.

ANALYSIS

In anticipation of the August 2022 contract expiration with WCA for power line clearance tree trimming, GWP staff has prepared Specification No. 3847 for approval and authorization to bid. The specification aligns the power line clearance tree trimming activities in accordance with the electric system reliability and wildfire safety standards mandated by CPUC and SB 901.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

The current annual budget for the power line clearance tree trimming contract with WCA is \$2,500,000. No new appropriation is being requested at this time. Funding for future years will be included as part of the annual budget process. The City Council approved funding is outlined below:

Existing Appropriation		
Amount	Account String	Funding Source
\$2,500,000	GL: 43110-5820-GWP-4660-P0000-	GWP Electric Works Revenue Fund

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This action is Categorically Exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15301 maintenance or existing landscaping and existing utility facilities.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements. Campaign disclosure requirements will be applicable once the competitive bidding process is completed and an award of contract is requested.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Adopt Specification No. 3847, and direct the City Clerk to advertise for bids.

Alternative 2: Not authorize the requested action herein which will end the City's power line clearance tree trimming program.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

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

Approved by:

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

EXHIBITS / ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable.