



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Replacement of Gas-Powered Landscape Maintenance Equipment with Zero Emission Battery Powered Equipment for all Park Facilities in the City of Glendale to Achieve Green Zone Certification.

1. Resolution establishing standardization of manufacturers, dispensing with competitive bidding and authorizing the Purchasing Administrator to issue a Purchase Order to B&M Lawn & Garden in the amount of \$208,355.05 for the purchase of STIHL and Husqvarna brand battery operated landscape maintenance equipment.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for June 27, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the direction of City Council, the Community Services & Parks Department is expanding its Green Zone Certification program to all 47 parks and recreational facilities. To that end, CSP will be replacing all gas-powered handheld landscape maintenance equipment with zero emission battery powered equipment. In consultation with American Green Zone Alliance, staff established a list of equipment necessary for the continued success of the operation, identified the ideal manufacturer based on results from field crews, and narrowed down the list of vendors based on availability and support finalizing the purchase utilizing the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Exchange Program. The use of this program will result in \$138,202.48 in savings for the purchase of the equipment.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Environmental Stewardship: Conversion of gas-powered landscape equipment to battery powered zero emission equipment will result in the removal of pollutants from the air and carbon sequestration, with an estimated 63 tons of pollutant reduction to the Environmental Landscape Footprint (ELF) in Glendale annually.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution establishing standardization of manufacturer, dispensing with competitive bidding and authorizing the Purchasing Department to issue a Purchase Order to B&M Lawn & Garden in the amount of \$208,355.05 for the purchase of STIHL and Husqvarna brand battery operated landscape maintenance equipment.

BACKGROUND

In our continued effort to reduce carbon emissions, run a sustainable operation, and be environmentally friendly, the Community Services and Parks Department (CSP) entered into a Professional Services Agreement with the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) to develop “Green Zones” within the City’s Park system. In order to achieve the Green Zone Certification, facilities must remove the routine / more frequently used gas-powered equipment and replace them with zero emission battery powered equipment.

For the initial phase of the certification process completed in April 2020, CSP carefully selected eight city properties to substantially reduce noise and air pollution:

1. Casa Adobe de San Rafael
2. City Hall Complex
3. Doran Mini Park
4. Harvard Mini Park
5. Heritage Garden
6. Maryland Ave Park
7. Verdugo Adobe
8. Wilson Mini Park

The final phase of the certification process will include all park and recreation facilities under CSP oversight. All gas-powered equipment used for routine grounds maintenance have been inventoried by tool, hours used per year, and confirmed by physical verification and property assessments. An initial impact report, generated by AGZA, measures ground ozone criteria pollution and CO2 resulting from gas equipment use. Said report estimates that replacement of these equipment will result in the reduction of 63 tons of airborne pollutants per year, including 50 tons of CO2 and 13 tons of smog forming criteria pollutants (CO, HC, PM, NOx). In addition, it is estimated that the use of battery powered equipment will reduce noise pollution by 40-70%, depending on tool type used, with blowers and trimmers resulting in the higher percentage reduction. The impact report is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Training and Education

Park Services staff were initially educated and trained on commercial electric equipment through several AGZA visits and equipment demos and workshops, as well as allowing staff to use a variety of different commercial tool platforms for extended periods of time. Upon council approval to purchase the equipment for all parks, a more in-depth session for optimal operation, including safe battery management and charging procedures and environmental benefits will be scheduled prior to commencing operations in the field.

ANALYSIS

To achieve efficiency within the operation, it is critical to standardize the equipment. In 2020, staff asked Council approval to standardize with STIHL Brand products while informing council the need to return for a revision of said equipment list if better products became available. At that time, the gas-powered equipment were assessed and commercial-grade STIHL electric equipment were specified based on the workload capability. Upon diligent review and testing in the field, CSP has revised its original tool platform to add Husqvarna brand mowers and blowers while maintaining council's original adopted platform of STIHL brand products for hedge sheers, string trimmers (weed eaters), edgers, and chainsaws. The main reason for the change of brands: Husqvarna mowers are self-propelled and as such easier to use; the backpack blowers are ergonomically efficient as compared to other products.

To complete the transition process to battery equipment, some park sites required infrastructure upgrades. The new battery powered equipment, battery bank, and charging infrastructure were specified in conjunction with AGZA. New sheds were purchased and installed to accommodate the infrastructure / housing needs. Modest updates to electrical outlets and panel breakers were completed with the support of Public Works Facilities Maintenance Division. CSP is now ready to receive the battery-operated equipment.

Pricing and Purchase of the Equipment

The Southern California Air Quality Management District (SC-AQMD) released its equipment exchange program in March 30, 2023. Through this program, public agencies may exchange gas powered landscape equipment with battery operated equipment at significant reductions on the Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP). This was the same program CSP utilized in 2020 to realize savings on the purchase of mowers and blowers during the first phase of certification.

The recently released program has additional requirements as compared to the previous version. Mainly, to realize the savings, only like for like items can be exchanged. For example, blowers can only be exchanged for blowers, mowers for mowers, etc. To this regard, staff worked with AGZA and a local vendor B&M Lawn and Garden to determine product availability, best available product, faster charging stations, longer battery life, as well as evaluate the cost utilizing the AQMD Exchange Program. This quote is attached to this report as Exhibit 2.

If the City proceeded with purchasing the equipment without the exchange program, the cost to transition to battery powered equipment would be estimated at \$346,557.53. Under this program, the purchase price for all necessary equipment for the CSP Department to convert to battery operated program will be \$208,355.05, a savings of \$138,202.48.

Staff, in working with AGZA, determined that there are limited number suppliers that can fulfill the order necessary for a full transition to battery operated equipment. B&M Lawn & Garden is prepared to meet the City's needs, has the ability to navigate through the AQMD Exchange Program, and is considered one of the most experienced battery /

electric and after-market support / dealer in the southland. Furthermore, B&M Lawn & Garden has agreed to allow for a transitional period of one week in exchanging the equipment to allow continuity of maintenance services, while CSP staff inventory the equipment in the order, assign it to appropriate park/ routes /staff, have the proper charging stations created, and train the staff. As such, staff recommends that council dispense with the traditional bidding process and authorize the Purchasing Department to issue a Purchase Order to B&M Lawn & Garden.

Upon Council approval, staff will work with the Purchasing Department to procure the equipment.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

Conversion to battery operated landscape maintenance equipment has been a long-standing goal established by the City Council and supported by the Sustainability Commission as well as the Parks, Recreation, & Community Services Commission. Members of the community have also expressed support and appreciation of the conversion at current Green Zones, citing positive results for noise and pollutant reduction from the environment and their neighborhoods.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to purchase the necessary equipment to transition the CSP maintenance operation to battery powered equipment under the AQMD Exchange Program is \$208,355.05, which is a savings of \$138,202.48.

Funding for the purchase of these equipment is available as follows:

Existing Appropriation		
Amount	Account String	Funding Source
\$208,355.05	4011-CSP-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000 Project CSP00688AN	Measure S

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

Because no possibility exists that the activity in question (purchase of battery powered equipment) may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA review under the commonsense exemption set forth in 14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3).

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

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 10% interest in the company proposed for contract in this Agenda Item Report are attached in Exhibit 3, in accordance with the City Campaign Finance Ordinance No. 5744.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Dispense with competitive bidding and authorize the Purchasing Department to issue a Purchase Order to B&M Lawn & Garden in the amount of \$208,355.05.

Alternative 2: Do not dispense with competitive bidding, and authorize the Purchasing Administrator to proceed with a traditional bid process. This option may result in delays in the transition process.

Alternative 3: Consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

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

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Environmental Landscape Footprint Report

Exhibit 2: Quote from B&M Lawn and Garden

Exhibit 3: Campaign Disclosure Form