



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief

Subject: Contracts: As-Needed Hazardous Fire Fuel Treatment with Julian Tree Care, Professional Tree Care, West Coast Arborist Inc., and West Coast Tree Service

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 February 1, 2024, to January 30, 2028, for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$4,000,000:

1. Julian Tree Care in the amount of \$1,000,000;
2. Professional Tree Care in the amount of \$1,000,000;
3. West Coast Arborist Inc. in the amount of \$1,000,000; and
4. West Coast Tree Service 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).

On November 21, 2023, the City received six quotes. Staff determined that Julian Tree Care, Professional Tree Care, West Coast Arborist Inc., and West Coast Tree Service met the criteria for a significant portion of the work needed. Staff recommends that new contracts with Julian Tree Care, Professional Tree Care, West Coast Arborist Inc., and West Coast Tree Service 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. These contracts assist with the objectives of removing hazardous vegetation accumulation and managing other vegetation in high-risk areas of the community and in 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 habitat by removing unwanted invasive plant species and vegetative debris that are recycled and converted into usable compost. This 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 Julian Tree Care, Professional Tree Care, West Coast Arborist Inc., and West Coast Tree Service 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

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution – Julian Tree Care
- 2: Resolution – Professional Tree Care
- 3: Resolution – West Coast Arborist Inc.
- 4: Resolution – West Coast Tree Service

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

CONTRACT: 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 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 accumulations and to manage other vegetation in high-risk areas (Specification No. 24-11634-C); and

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2023, the City received six (6) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that Julian Tree Care meet 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 Julian Tree Care for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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WHEREAS, on November 27, 2023, the City received six (6) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that Professional Tree Care meet 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 Professional Tree Care for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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WHEREAS, on November 27, 2023, the City received six (6) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that West Coast Arborist Inc meet 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 West Coast Arborist Inc. for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.

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WHEREAS, on November 27, 2023, the City received six (6) bids, which were reviewed by staff; and

WHEREAS, staff determined that West Coast Tree Service meet 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 West Coast Tree Service for a period of four years, for a cumulative total not to exceed of \$1,000,000.