

Agenda Report

June 21, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT COMPANY TO PROVIDE POWERLINE CLEARANCE TREE TRIMMING SERVICES FOR THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3);
2. Accept the bid dated May 25, 2010 from Asplundh Tree Expert Company in response to Specifications LD-10-6 for tree trimming services for the Water and Power Department (Department); reject all other bids; and authorize a contract for a period of four years or until \$2,000,000 has been expended, whichever comes first; with two optional one-year extensions, each not to exceed \$500,000. Following the initial term of the contract, the contractor may increase prices annually but may not exceed the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange County areas for the most recently available 12-month period.

BACKGROUND:

The California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95 requires utilities to maintain certain clearances between overhead electrical line conductors and trees for safety and reliability of service. The Department prepared tree trimming specifications to maintain safe clearances around electrical conductors while adhering to the requirements of the law as well as City guidelines for tree trimming. The Forestry Section of the Public Works Department has reviewed the requirements in the specifications and has concurred. Every effort is made to maintain the natural character of the trees trimmed. The specifications require a tree trimming job supervisor to be a certified arborist and for a certified City of Pasadena arborist to conduct periodic inspections to ensure tree trimming operations are in compliance with the specifications and the law. An average of 7,800 trees in proximity to City overhead electrical lines are trimmed annually. The goal for the Department continues to be trimming an average of 7,800 trees annually.

The existing contract for tree trimming services has expired. Consequently, in order to meet the Department's continuous need for such services, on April 29, 2010, a Notice Inviting Bids was published in *The Pasadena Journal* and posted on the City's web. In addition, specifications were mailed to thirty businesses on the Purchasing Division's vendor list. On May 25, 2010, eight bids were opened in the City Clerk's office. One bid was deemed non-responsive. Asplundh Tree Expert Company was the lowest responsive bidder that met all of the requirements of the specifications.

The bidders and respective bid prices are listed as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Total Bid Price Per Crew Hour</u>
Asplundh Tree Experts	San Diego, CA	\$279.39
Davey Tree Surgery	Livermore, CA	\$313.27
Stay Green	Santa Clarita, CA	\$315.00
West Coast Arbors	Anaheim, CA	\$405.00
Oakridge Landscape	North Hills, CA	\$414.00
Trimming Land Co.	South Gate, CA	\$455.00
CLS	Chino, CA	\$533.60

The evaluation was based on criteria set forth in the specifications to determine the average price per crew hour to adjust tree tops, clear limbs, remove and dispose of trees, tree branches and brush, prune overhanging branches and maintain proper tree structure around energized electrical distribution lines.

It is recommended that the City Council authorize a labor and service contract for a period of four years or until \$2,000,000 has been expended, whichever comes first. There may be two additional one-year extensions, not to exceed \$500,000 each. Following the initial term of the contract, the contractor may increase prices annually but may not exceed the increase in Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange County areas for the most recently available 12-month period. This contract will enable the Department to meet the requirements of General Order 95.

The proposed contract is in compliance with Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance P.M.C. 4.08 and the rules and regulations promulgated there under.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract supports the City Council's goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities infrastructure and to provide a high level of service through more efficient management of resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

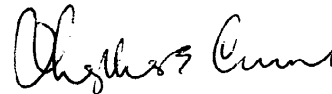
The proposed contracts are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3). The general rule states that CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential for causing significant effects on the environment. The proposed

project is a contract to continue services for tree trimming in close proximity of overhead distribution lines. All trimming will comply with applicable code requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

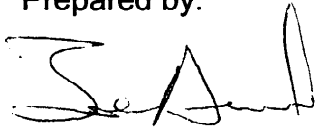
Sufficient funds in the amount of \$500,000 have been requested in the Power Distribution's Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget account number 8116-401-843210-0593-20205, Maintenance of Overhead Lines. Sufficient funds will be requested in the Operating Budgets for fiscal years 2012-2016 to cover the cost of this contract. No work will be performed under this contract unless requested funds are appropriated.

Respectfully submitted,



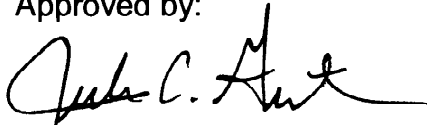
Phyllis E. Currie
General Manager
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



Joe Awad
Assistant General Manager
Water and Power Department

Approved by:



^{E114} Michael J. Beck
City Manager