



# Agenda Report

June 22, 2020

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Water and Power Department

**SUBJECT: REJECTION OF BIDS FOR POWER LINE CLEARANCE TREE TRIMMING SERVICES FOR THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the common sense exemption (formerly the General Rule) that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
2. Reject all bids received on March 24 and March 26, 2020 in response to the Notice Inviting Bids for Tree Trimming Services for the Water and Power Department.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Water and Power Department ("PWP") developed bid Specifications for power line clearance tree trimming services. The bid Specifications provided the opportunity to award a contract to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

On February 13, 2020, a Notice Inviting Bids for Tree Trimming Services for the Water and Power Department was published in the Pasadena Journal and posted on the City's website via PlanetBids. The electronic posting generated 593 notices to prospective bidders (42 local) and Specification documents were downloaded by 26 vendors. Of the vendors that downloaded the Specifications, two vendors submitted bids as required by the Specifications by March 26, 2020.

Due to the onset of the coronavirus and subsequent social distancing rules, the bid submittal format was changed from paper bids to electronic bidding after the Notice Inviting Bids was published. This is not a conventional change that staff would typically make during the competitive bidding process. Of the vendors that downloaded the Specifications, two vendors submitted bids electronically as required by the Specifications by March 26, 2020. One local bidder submitted a paper bid. However, that bid was not considered valid since it was not submitted electronically. Therefore,

since the bid submittal format was changed which created confusion amongst bidders, staff respectfully recommends rejecting all bids received. Upon City Council's rejection of the bids, staff will re-post the Specifications for competitive bidding selection.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

Rejecting all bids supports the City Council's goals to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(5) and Section 15270 of the State CEQA Guidelines statutorily exempt from CEQA "projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves." The rejection of bids for power line clearance tree trimming services for PWP is statutorily exempt from CEQA per these Sections.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action, and the action will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. There is no anticipated impact to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Approved by:



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