

Agenda Report

October 19, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FLINTRIDGE TREE CARE, INC. TO PROVIDE POWER LINE CLEARANCE TREE TRIMMING SERVICES FOR THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT FOR A MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,401,420

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities); and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances; and
2. a) Accept the bid dated August 13, 2020 from Flintridge Tree Care, Inc., in response to Specifications for Tree Trimming Services for the Water and Power Department; b) authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract for an initial period not to exceed one year or until \$2,680,284 is expended, whichever comes first; c) authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a contract not to exceed two years or until \$5,360,568 is expended, whichever comes first, after the initial one-year period reaches completion; d) authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to extend the contract for up to two additional one-year terms, each not to exceed \$2,680,284, whichever comes first, for a maximum contract length of five years and a total contract amount of \$13,401,420.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95 requires power utilities to trim trees that are in close proximity to overhead power distribution lines. This is considered a best business practice to improve safety and reliability of power delivery service, including the mitigation of wildfire risks in high-threat areas.

The Pasadena Water and Power Department ("PWP") routinely trims an average of 7,800 trees annually that are in close proximity to energized electrical lines, most of which are in the rear of private properties rather than in public right-of-ways. Tree

trimming around energized lines is essential to maintaining the safety and reliability of the electrical service.

All contractors performing tree trimming services for PWP must be Qualified Line Clearance tree workers who have the necessary training, experience and expertise with the techniques and hazards of tree maintenance, removal, and the equipment in close proximity to energized electrical lines. The work is performed using equipment that is electrically insulated and typically completed on private property, most often in backyards. PWP also requires having an onsite tree trimming job foreman who is an International Society of Arboriculture ("ISA") certified arborist, ensuring every effort is made to maintain the natural character of the trees being trimmed.

On July 6, 2020, a Notice Inviting Bids for Tree Trimming Services for the Water & Power Department was published in the Pasadena Journal and posted on the City's website via PlanetBids. PWP staff also performed additional outreach via direct emails and phone calls to approximately 50 prospective bidders (18 local). The electronic posting generated 607 notices to prospective bidders (43 local) and Specification documents were downloaded by 37 vendors (2 local). Of the vendors that downloaded the Specifications, four vendors submitted bids as required by the Specifications by August 13, 2020.

Bidder	Annual Bid Amount
Flintridge Tree Care, Inc., Pasadena, CA	\$2,680,284
Utility Tree Service, LLC, San Diego, CA	\$3,143,751
West Coast Arborists, Inc., Anaheim, CA	\$3,700,120
International Environmental Corp., Arleta, CA	\$4,188,600

The bid evaluation was based on criteria set forth in the Specifications to determine the average grand total cost to provide all services described in the Specifications to adjust tree tops, clear limbs, remove and dispose of trees, branches and brush, prune overhanging branches and maintain proper tree structure around energized electrical distribution lines on private properties. Costs are billed on an hourly basis.

Flintridge Tree Care, Inc., a local company, submitted the lowest bid that met all requirements of the Specifications. Therefore, staff respectfully recommends that the City Council accept the bid dated August 13, 2020 submitted by Flintridge Tree Care, Inc. in response to the Specifications to provide power line clearance tree trimming services for the Water and Power Department and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into a Contract for an initial period not to exceed one year or until \$2,680,284 is expended, whichever comes first; a Contract not to exceed two years or until \$5,360,568 is expended, whichever occurs first, after the initial one-year period reaches completion; and two optional one-year extensions of \$2,680,284, whichever

occurs first, for a maximum contract length of five years and a total contract amount of \$13,401,420.

Flintridge Tree Care, Inc. has had two previous contracts since 2016 with the City of Pasadena for a total amount of \$52,980.

Since this is the first contract PWP will award to Flintridge Tree Care, Inc. for power line clearance tree trimming, we propose that the first year of the initial three-year contract be established as a trial period, as reflected in Recommendation 2b.

The proposed contract complies with the Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 4.08 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract is consistent with the City Council's goals to ensure public safety, maintain fiscal responsibility and stability, and PWP's strategic initiatives to enhance customer satisfaction and confidence, improve efficiency and business continuity and maintain PWP's fiscal health and stability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed contract is exempt from CEQA in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) exempts actions such as maintenance, repair, and operation relating to existing facilities or structures where there is negligible or no expansion of the use. Subsection 15301 (h) of this exemption specifically includes the maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth. The proposed contract allows for continued tree trimming services in close proximity of energized electrical lines. There will be no expansion of the use, and all trimming will continue to comply with applicable code requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

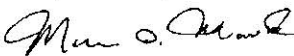
The maximum cost of this action will be \$13,401,420, which includes the first three years and two optional one-year extensions. Funding for this action will be addressed by an increase in appropriations in the Power Operating Fund 401 Account 47405930-811600 in the amount of \$565,500 and the utilization of existing funds in the same account for Fiscal Year 2021, as well as future annual operating budgets. It is anticipated that \$1,687,500 of the cost will be spent during the current fiscal year. The remainder of the cost will be spent over the next five fiscal years.

Respectfully submitted,



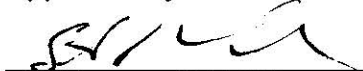
GURCHARAN S. BAWA
General Manager
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



MARVIN D. MOON
Assistant General Manager
Water and Power Department

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager