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From: David Bona
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 4:29 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council Meeting - November 17, 2025 Agenda item 12
Attachments: RELEVANT_EXPERIENCE_FORM TSK.pdf; RELEVANT_EXPERIENCE_FORM PCTE.pdf; RELEVANT_EXPERIENCE_FORM_WCTS.pdf; UTS Protest Response 2025-IFB-LM-0407 Final Strike through.pdf; UTS Protest_20251002.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I write on behalf of my client, Utility Tree Service, LLC, to express concerns regarding the procedures followed in connection with awarding the Tree Trimming, Vegetation Management and Emergency Services Response contract to Tree Service Kings ("TSK").

Tree trimming and vegetation management are crucial components of delivering safe and reliable electric service, as well as mitigating wildfire risk associated with power lines. Due to the significant safety hazards and dangers posed by high-voltage lines, it is essential that the City retain qualified and experienced vegetation management contractors. That is why the City of Pasadena Water and Power Department requires its contractors to possess the specialized training, experience, and expertise set out in the bid documents.

The bid proposal requires the contractor to have a minimum of five years of experience performing work for governmental agencies or organizations engaged in similar operations, such as private utilities or other entities managing electrical infrastructure and vegetation management. Based on the attached, publicly available documents submitted by TSK, TSK appears to only barely meet the five-year requirement. Moreover, two of the four entries listed on TSK's Relevant Experience Form identify TSK as a subcontractor rather than the prime contractor, and two of the four entries began in May and August of 2025.

The situation appears similar with other bidders. West Coast Tree Service's Relevant Experience Form reflects only one project with the requisite five years' experience. Pacific Coast Tree Experts' Relevant Experience Form does not list any projects as a prime contractor with more than five years' experience; instead, its relevant experience appears to be as a subcontractor to another vegetation management company, not as a prime contractor for a utility. Utility Tree Service, LLC raised these and other concerns in a protest letter dated October 2, 2025.

Given the substantial wildfire risk and the potential for serious injury associated with high-voltage power lines, ensuring that Pasadena Water and Power's contractors meet the experience requirements and maintain robust safety and training programs should be of paramount importance. Utility Tree Service respectfully urges the City Council and Pasadena Water and Power to conduct thorough due diligence on each bidder's work experience, safety record, and training programs before awarding or approving this contract.

Thank you for your attention to this important public safety matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

David Bona

11/17/2025
Item 12



Representing Innovators for Over 140 Years

Donahue Fitzgerald LLP

1646 N. California Blvd. Suite 250, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Cell: (415) 218-4156

Office: (925) 953-6361

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FORM

Please complete the next five (5) pages to demonstrate experience with projects of similar scope and size to that which is to be performed. This completed form will be submitted with bid.

Project No. 1

Project Name Vegetation Management Services for Power Line Clearance 106R1

Project Address/Location City of Los Angeles

Date of Start/Completion of Project 04/03/2020 - Current

Contract Description

Utility Vegetation Management services pruning over 300,000 trees in all of LADWP
service area. This includes pruning, removal, and emergency services.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Name of Contact Juan Carlos Pelayo

Title Superintendent

Address 6060 Sepulveda Blvd., Ste.210, Van Nuys, CA 91411

Phone Number (818) 771-3711 Email juan.pelayo@ladwp.com

Project No. 2

Project Name Utility Tree Trimming

Project Address/ Location North Valley

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2022 - Current

Contract Description

Subcontractor to Mountain F. Enterprise Tree trimming, tree removals, pole grubbing,
and ROW clearing in the Oroville, Paradise, Chico, and Nevada County regions.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Pacific Gas & Electric / Mountain F. Enterprise

Name of Contact Raul Gomez

Title President

Address 950 Iron Point Rd., Folsom, CA 95630

Phone Number (530) 626-4127 Email rgmfe@mtfent.com

Project No. 3

Project Name Utility Vegetation Management

Project Address/ Location City of Covina

Date of Start/Completion of Project 08/01/25 - Current

Contract Description

Subcontractor to Rolling Green, Inc. Utility line clearance services including pruning, removal,
and inventory updating.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Southern California Edison / Rolling Green, Inc.

Name of Contact Chris Eaton

Title Vice President

Address 401 W. 4th St., San Bernardino, CA 92401

Phone Number (530) 919-2026 Email chris.eaton@rgtreecare.com

Project No. 4

Project Name Distribution Line Clearance & Brush Removal

Project Address/ Location State of Nebraska

Date of Start/Completion of Project 5/19/2025 - Current

Contract Description

Utility tree trimming and removals throughout the state of Nebraska on over 600 miles
of power lines.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Nebraska Public Power District

Name of Contact Michael McLaughlin

Title Distribution Supervisor

Address 1200 South Chestnut St., Norfolk, NE 68701

Phone Number (402) 644-3106 Email msmclau@nppd.com



Project No. 5

Project Name _____

Project Address/ Locaton _____

Date of Start/Completion of Project _____

Contract Description

Contract Owner Information:

Owner _____

Name of Contact _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FORM

Please complete the next five (5) pages to demonstrate experience with projects of similar scope and size to that which is to be performed. This completed form will be submitted with bid.

Project No. 1

Project Name SCE Vegetation Line Clearing and Hazard Wood/Palm tree removals.

Project Address/Location SCE Districts 35- 1000 Oaks. District 49-Santa Barbara

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2023 – Present

Contract Description

☒ Prime Contractor for Southern California Edison.

We currently have 46 line clearing and hazard tree crews working in our 2 SCE awarded Districts
Santa Barbara and 1000 Oaks. We will currently trim approx. 50,000 + trees per year and remove approx.
4 ,000 wood and palm trees per year in both districts.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Southern California Edison

Name of Contact Matt Saddler

Title SCE Manager - Operations T&D - VICO - Vegetation Management

Address 10060 Telegraph Rd. Ventura, Ca. 93004

Phone Number 805-368-7771 Email matthew.saddler@sce.com

Project No. 2

Project Name UTS/SCE Vegetation Management Line clearing

Project Address/ Location Various SCE districts

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2012- 2023

Contract Description

☒ Subcontract for Utility Tree Service, LLC (formerly Asplundh Tree Expert Co.) for Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Vegetation Management contracts.

• During this time frame we had approx. 60 line clearing routine crews and 15 Hazard/Heavy wood and Palm removal crews.
working on the SCE/PG&E/LADWP Vegetation Systems

Contract Owner Information:

Owner SCE/PG&E/LADWP as a sub contractor to UTS

Name of Contact UTS- William Ross

Title Manager UTS "Retired"

Address 18060 Granite Ave Riverside Ca 92508

Phone Number 951-505-9500 Email calarborist1@gmail.com

Project No. 3

Project Name PG&E Vegetation Management

Project Address/ Location Various locations through out the PG&E system

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2019 - Present

Contract Description

Subcontractors for Davey Tree for Pacific Gas and Electric Vegetation Management contract.

We currently have 15 total crews working under Davey Tree as a sub-contractor doing Line clearing and

Hazard/Heavy wood and palm removals

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Davey Tree- On the PG&E system

Name of Contact Davey Tree- Jeff McCormick

Title Regional Vice President

Address 12617 South Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550

Phone Number 425-229-1146 Email jeff.mccormick@davey.com

Project No. 4

Project Name PG&E Vegetation Routine Line Clearing and Heavy/Hazard tree removals

Project Address/ Location Grass Valley area of the PG&E System

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2019 to Present

Contract Description

Subcontractor to Mountain F Enterprises on the Pacific Gas and Electric Vegetation Management contract

We have 7 crews working under Mountain F Enterprises doing Line clearing and Hazard/Heavy tree wood removals.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Mountain F Enterprises PG&E contract

Name of Contact Rual Gomez

Title Owner/CEO of MFE

Address 950 Iron Point Rd Folsom, Ca 95630

Phone Number 530-919-7930 Email rgmfe@mtfent.com

Project No. 5

Project Name Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Vegetation Management

Project Address/ Locaton Various city's/Items within Los Angeles Department of Water & Power Vegetation Management

Date of Start/Completion of Project 2012-2016

Contract Description

Sub Contractors to Davey Tree for Routine Line clearing and wood and palm removal for
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Utility Line Clearing/Vegetation Management contract.
PCTE had Approx. 10 line clearing crews during this time period.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Davey Tree

Name of Contact Jeff McCormick

Title Regional Vice President

Address 2617 South Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550

Phone Number 425-229-1146 Email jeff.mccormick@davey.com

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FORM

Please complete the next five (5) pages to demonstrate experience with projects of similar scope and size to that which is to be performed. This completed form will be submitted with bid.

Project No. 1

Project Name Hazard Tree Removal and Trim

Project Address/Location 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558

Date of Start/Completion of Project 02/01/2023 – Ongoing

Contract Description

This project addressed the removal and trimming of hazard trees across the Napa State Hospital property.

Services ensured the safety of patients, staff, and visitors by mitigating risks from falling limbs and diseased

trees. The work involved specialized equipment and arborist expertise to operate in sensitive institutional

environments while preserving landscape integrity.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Napa State Hospital

Name of Contact Ken Woodle

Title Facility Representative

Address 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558

Phone Number 707-495-2550 Email Kenneth.Woodle@dsh.ca.gov

Project No. 2

Project Name Utility Line Clearance / Vegetation Management

Project Address/ Location Humboldt County, Mendocino County, Shasta County, Tehama County, Bay Area

Date of Start/Completion of Project 07/01/2020 – Ongoing

Contract Description

West Coast Tree Service performed large-scale utility line clearance and vegetation management across
multiple Northern California counties. Work included hazard tree removal, trimming, and brush management
around transmission and distribution corridors. The project required strict adherence to CPUC safety
standards and utility protocols to minimize fire risk and maintain service reliability.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)

Name of Contact Jackson Estes

Title Utility Vegetation Management Contact

Address 5930 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266

Phone Number 530-717-0876 Email jestes@wrighttree.com

Project No. 3

Project Name Prevention Tree Maintenance

Project Address/ Location 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292

Date of Start/Completion of Project 07/13/2023 – 10/13/2023

Contract Description

This contract involved proactive vegetation management and hazard tree trimming to reduce fire risks across CalFire-managed lands. Services included selective pruning, tree removal, and brush clearing to maintain defensible space and comply with fire prevention regulations. The work ensured public safety, protected infrastructure, and supported CalFire's broader wildfire mitigation strategy.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner CalFire

Name of Contact Clay Lyons

Title Fire Prevention Contact

Address 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292

Phone Number 559-358-7143

Email Clay.Lyons@fire.ca.gov

Project No. 4

Project Name Fuel Reduction Project

Project Address/ Location George J. Hatfield SRA Park

Date of Start/Completion of Project 07/01/2023 – 09/01/2023

Contract Description

West Coast Tree Service delivered comprehensive fuel reduction services at George J. Hatfield SRA Park.

Work included large-scale hazard tree removal, vegetation clearance, and brush thinning to create defensible space within the park. These services improved visitor safety, preserved natural resources, and aligned with California Parks' wildfire prevention and conservation goals.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner California Parks

Name of Contact Nathaniel Wigington

Title Park Representative

Address George J. Hatfield SRA Park

Phone Number 209-770-0130 Email Nathaniel.Wigington@parks.ca.gov

Project No. 5

Project Name Tree Maintenance Project

Project Address/ Location 6900 Airport Blvd, Sacramento, CA 9583

Date of Start/Completion of Project 09/01/2023 – Ongoing

Contract Description

This project provided tree maintenance services for the Sacramento County Airport grounds. Crews
conducted trimming, hazard tree removal, and ongoing vegetation control to ensure aviation safety and
compliance with FAA and county regulations. Work was performed with a focus on minimizing disruptions to
airport operations while maintaining landscape health.

Contract Owner Information:

Owner Sacramento County Department of Airports

Name of Contact Sandra Gomez

Title Airport Representative

Address 6900 Airport Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95837

Phone Number 916-874-0882 Email GomezSa@saccounty.gov

WEST COAST TREE SERVICE, INC.

- West Coast Tree Service, Inc. has delivered expert tree care for residential and business clients since 2019.
- This includes extensive Private Residential Work across California-ranging from routine tree maintenance to emergency removals after storms.
- We provide trimming, removals, pruning, and emergency storm response for private properties.
- Our team is experienced in both small-scale residential jobs and large commercial site work.
- We prioritize safety, property protection, and visual appeal across all projects.
- Trusted by homeowners, HOAs, and businesses for reliable and responsive service.
- Our proactive maintenance helps clients avoid costly damage and preserve landscape health.

REFERENCES

Client Name: California High-Speed Rail Authority Address: 770 L Street, Suite 620-MS2, Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-502-5896 Email: brenda.mckenzie@hsr.ca.gov Project Value: 25,000 Type of Work: Tree Removal and Trim Contact Person: Brenda McKenzie Project Duration: 04/11/2025 - Ongoing	Client Name: CalFire Address: 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292 Location of Job: 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292 Project Value: \$ 20,000 Type of Work: Prevention Tree Maintenance Contact Person: Clay Lyons Phone: 559-358-7143 Email: Clay.Lyons@fire.ca.gov Project Duration: 07/13/2023 – 10/13/2023
Client Name: Napa State Hospital Address: 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558 Location of Job: 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558 Project Value: \$ 450,000 Type of Work: Hazard Tree Removal and Trim Contact Person: Ken Woodle Phone: 707-495-2550 Email: Kenneth.Woodle@dsh.ca.gov Project Duration: 02/01/2023 - On Going	Client Name: California Parks Address: George J Haaield SRA Park Location of Job: George J Haaield SRA Park Project Value: \$ 190,000 Type of Work: Fuel Reduction Contact Person: Nathaniel Wigington Phone: 209-770-0130 Email: Nathaniel.Wigington@parks.ca.gov Project Duration: 07/01/2023 – 09/01/2023
Client Name: Residential Tree Work Address: Tulare County, Fresno County, Shasta County, Tehama County, Mendocino, Marin County, San Francisco County Annual Project Value: \$10,000,000 Type of Work: Tree Removal, Tree Trim, Stump Grinding, Tree Planting, Tree Transporting, Traffic Control, Mowing, Palm Tree Trimming, Palm Tree Removal, Emergency Work, Hazard Tree Work, Fuel Reduction, Preventative Maintenance Project Duration: 04/11/2019 - Ongoing	Client Name: California Prison Industry Authority Address: 560 E Natoma St., Folsom, CA 95630 Location of Job: 560 E Natoma St., Folsom, CA 95630 Project Value: \$ 25,000 Type of Work: Hazard Tree Removal and Trim Contact Person: Marco Rodriguez Phone: 916-413-9115 Email: Marco.Rodriguez@calpia.ca.gov Project Duration: 07/01/2023 – 08/01/2024

Phone:
(559)736-6994

Email:
info@westcoasttreeservice.com

Website:
westcoasttreeservice.com



West Coast Tree Service

West Coast Tree Service, Inc. has delivered expert tree care for residential and business clients since 2019.

This includes extensive Private Residential Work across California—ranging from routine tree maintenance to emergency removals after storms.

We provide trimming, removals, pruning, and emergency storm response for private properties.

Our team is experienced in both small-scale residential jobs and large commercial site work.

We prioritize safety, property protection, and visual appeal across all projects.

Trusted by homeowners, HOAs, and businesses for reliable and responsive service.

Our proactive maintenance helps clients avoid costly damage and preserve landscape health.

References

Client Name: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)

Address: 5930 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266

Location of Job: Humboldt County, Mendocino County,
Shasta County, Tehama County, Bay Area

Project Value: \$ 20 million

Type of Work: Utility Line Clearance / Vegetation Management

Contact Person: Jackson Estes

Phone: 530-717-0876

Email: Jestes@wrighttree.com

Project Duration: 07/01/2020 - On Going

Client Name: CalFire

Address: 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292

Location of Job: 1968 S Lovers Lane, Visalia,
CA 93292

Project Value: \$ 20,000

Type of Work: Prevention Tree Maintenance

Contact Person: Clay Lyons

Phone: 559-358-7143

Email: Clay.Lyons@fire.ca.gov

Project Duration: 07/13/2023 – On Going

Client Name: Napa State Hospital

Address: 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558

Location of Job: 2100 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558

Project Value: \$ 450,000

Type of Work: Hazard Tree Removal and Trim

Contact Person: Ken Woodle

Phone: 707-495-2550

Email: Kenneth.Woodle@dsh.ca.gov

Project Duration: 02/01/2023 – On Going

Client Name: California Parks

Address: George J Haaield SRA Park

Location of Job: George J Haaield SRA Park

Project Value: \$ 190,000

Type of Work: Fuel Reduction

Contact Person: Nathaniel Wigington

Phone: 209-770-0130

Email: Nathaniel.Wigington@parks.ca.gov

Project Duration: 07/01/2023 – On Going

Client Name: Sacramento County Department of Airports

Address: 6900 Airport Blvd, Sacramento Ca, 95837

Location of Job: 6900 Airport Blvd, Sacramento Ca, 95837

Project Value: \$ 50,000

Type of Work: Tree Maintenance

Contact Person: Sandra Gomez

Phone: 916-874-0882

Email: GomezSa@saccounty.gov

Project Duration: 09/01/2023 - On Going

Client Name: California Prison Industry Authority

Address: 560 E Natoma St., Folsom, CA 95630

Location of Job: 560 E Natoma St., Folsom, CA 95630

Project Value: \$ 25,000

Type of Work: Hazard Tree Removal and Trim

Contact Person: Marco Rodriguez

Phone: 916-413-9115

Email: Marco.Rodriguez@calpia.ca.gov

Project Duration: 07/01/2023 – On Going



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Purchasing Division

Sent via Email: daquino@utilitytreeservice.com

October 27, 2025

Kenneth Landrith
President
Utility Tree Service (UTS)
15335 Fairfield Ranch Rd Suite 250
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Subject: Response to Protest – Project ID 2025-IFB-LM-0407, Tree Trimming, Vegetation Management, and Emergency Response Services for Power Line Clearance

Dear Mr. Landrith,

Please consider this letter a response to the protest for the subject solicitation which closed on September 18, 2025. The protest letter contends that, several bidders provided information that does not meet the City's stated requirements to qualify for an award.

UTS contends Tree Service Kings failed to provide five (5) references, and the bidder proposal in the competitive bid 2025-IFB-LM-0704 lacked required documentation.

City Response: The Invitation for Bid (IFB) Project ID 2025-IFB-LM-0407 listed relevant experience as follows: "Experience must include at least two (2) projects/contracts of comparable scope and size to the services required under this solicitation". Regarding the bidder's proposal from the prior solicitation, the requirements set forth in the 2025-IFB-LW-0704 competitive bid are not applicable nor considered, as bids were rejected by City Council on July 21, 2025.

UTS contends West Coast Tree Service ~~Kings~~ Inc. did not have a C-49 license at the time of bid closing.

City Response: The IFB, required licenses and submittal checklist sections required a C-49 – Tree and Palm Contractor License; **OR** C-61/D-49 – Tree Service (Limited Specialty) License. Per the State of California Contractors State License Board, West Coast Tree Service Inc. has an active C-61/D49 license.

UTS contends Pacific Tree Experts listed its own employee as a reference and does not demonstrate adequate relevant experience.

City Response: The bid for Pacific Tree Experts has not been reviewed.

City of Pasadena - Department of Finance
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S348
Pasadena, CA 91109 (626) 744-4355

At the time of this letter, the solicitation is in Evaluation status, and no recommendation has been made for this project. The City intends to continue evaluating the apparent low bidder and the award recommendation will be made in a fair and transparent process and compliance with stated qualifications and requirements set forth in the 2025-IFB-LM-0407 solicitation.

Sincerely,



Erika E. Alvarez
Purchasing Administrator

CC: Vic Erganian, Acting Director of Finance
Jerome Bragg, Project Manager
Antonio Watson, Project Manager



October 2, 2025

City of Pasadena
Attn: Purchasing Administrator
100 N. Garfield, Room S348
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Formal Protest for 2025-IFB-LM-0407: Tree Trimming, Vegetation Management, and Emergency Response Services for Power Line Clearance

Dear Purchasing Administrator:

I am writing on behalf of UTS to formally protest the recent public bid for tree trimming services, in which Tree Service Kings, Inc. is the apparent low bidder. We believe several bidders provided information that does not meet the City's stated requirements to qualify for an award, which are outlined below:

- **Tree Service Kings, Inc.:** The bidder failed to provide five (5) reference projects in the Relevant Experience Form as required in the competitive bid. Additionally, the bidder's proposal in competitive bid 2025-IFB-LM-0704 (closed in March 2025) lacked the required documentation for safety programs and training qualifications. Considering the bidder failed to demonstrate suitable qualifications to perform this highly complex work earlier this year, it is highly unlikely they have sufficiently improved their program to meet the City's rigorous safety and technical requirements.
- **West Coast Tree Service, Inc.:** The bidder did not have a C-49 Contractor's License at the time of bid closing as required in the competitive bid.
- **Pacific Coast Tree Experts:** The bidder listed its own current employee as a reference for Project No. 2, which does not allow for an accurate assessment of its past relevant experience. Additionally, the bidder has listed duplicative projects as part of its experience record (working for SCE in the Santa Barbara area). Further, the bidder listed a project ending in 2016, which would be deemed as irrelevant given the significant gap in time to the current IFB. As a result, the bidder has failed to demonstrate adequate relevant experience in line with the City's requirements.

We respectfully request a thorough review of the bid documents received by these bidders to determine their compliance with the City's IFB requirements. UTS is committed to providing high-quality tree trimming services and believes that a fair and transparent process will reflect our capabilities accurately.



UTILITYTREESERVICE

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and resolution of this protest.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

9CD498EEEE324E3...

Kenneth Landrith
President