



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 1, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
Subject: Contract No. 31900040 Amendment: Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance for Hazardous Vegetation Reduction Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to amend Contract No. 31900040 with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance for additional reduction of hazardous vegetation in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways and landscaped areas during high-risk fire season, by increasing the contract by \$410,000 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,235,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding in the amount of \$155,000 is available in the FY 2021 budget in the Parks Tax Fund and \$10,000 in the Marina Fund. Funds will be budgeted and appropriated annually at these levels for a not to exceed contract amount of \$1,235,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City has a current contract with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance (contract no. 31900040) for the reduction of hazardous vegetation services in the amount of \$825,000 for three years with two one-year options to extend. In 2020, staff has identified the need for addition hazardous vegetation removal services in high-risk areas throughout the City during high-risk fire season, and therefore recommends amending the current contract for these services.

BACKGROUND

On June 9, 1992, the City Council of the City of Berkeley authorized the creation of the Fire Fuel Management Program for public properties in response to the Oakland Hills Firestorm Disaster of October 1991. The program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff, and therefore uses contracted services.

On July 27, 2018, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways and landscaped areas

(Specification No. 18-11225-C). This process resulted in a contract with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance in the amount of \$825,000 for a three year period, with two one-year options to extend (Resolution No. 68,629).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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 service contract is an essential component in the proper maintenance of the City's numerous green and open spaces.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department has evaluated the ongoing need for hazardous vegetation in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways and landscaped areas during high-risk fire season and Freitas Landscaping has consistently provide excellent, cost effective and timely professional hazardous vegetation removal service for the City. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department, 981-6700
Bruce Pratt, Parks Superintendent, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 31900040 AMENDMENT: FREITAS LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE FOR ADDITIONAL HAZARDOUS VEGETATION REDUCTION SERVICES.

WHEREAS, on June 9, 1992, the City Council of the City of Berkeley authorized the creation of the Fire Fuel Management Program for public properties in response to the Oakland hills Firestorm Disaster of October 1991; and

WHEREAS, the program objectives are to remove hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City owned parks, pathways, and landscaped areas. The City does not have the resources to accomplish this work using in-house staff, and therefore uses contracted services; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2018, to prepare for a new contract for these services, the City conducted a competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for the removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways and landscaped areas (Specification No. 18-11225-C). this process resulted in a contract with Freitas Landscaping and Maintenance in the amount of \$825,000 for a three year period, with two one-year options to extend (Resolution No. 68,629); and

WHEREAS, in 2020, staff has identified the need for addition hazardous vegetation removal services in high-risk areas throughout the City during high-risk fire season, and therefore recommends amending the current contract for these services; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$155,000 is available in the FY 2021 budget in the Parks Tax Fund and \$10,000 in the Marina Fund. Funds will be budgeted annually at these levels for a not to exceed \$1,235,000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to amend Contract No. 31900040 with Freitas Landscaping & Maintenance for additional removal of hazardous vegetation accumulations in high-risk areas of City-owned parks, pathways and landscaped areas by increasing the contract amount by \$410,000 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,235,000. A record signature copy of said contract amendment to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

