

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 12/12/05		Item Number: <u>C-5</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Award of a Maintenance Contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc. for Work Under the Sewer Line Replacement Project, P-230			
Contact Person/Dept.: Heustace Lewis/PW/MO		Phone Number: 310/253-6444	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List (12/07/05). Duke's Root Control, Inc., Whyte Plumbing, Inc. and Pacific Sewer Maintenance Corporation (12/07/05).			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (12/02/05)		CAO Approval: Martin Cole for Jerry Fulwood (12/5/05)	
City Controller Approval: Marlee Chang (12/2/05)			
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends that the City Council award a maintenance contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to complete the necessary maintenance work under the Sewer Line Replacement Project, P-230. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> There are approximately 86 miles of sewer mains that the City maintains. Approximately 40 miles of the mains are impacted by tree and plant root intrusion. Root intrusion causes a variety of negative impacts on the City's system. These impacts range from sewage stoppages, increased maintenance/utility costs and accelerated system deterioration. Currently the City does not have a maintenance program designed specifically to address root intrusion. Because of numerous and varying types of obstructions, the City's maintenance efforts have relied on techniques that are designed to flush and power wash debris from the mains, versus cutting methods, which can't negotiate certain obstructions and have negative side impacts on the life of the mains. These techniques do not eliminate the roots so that over time they grow back and continue to be a problem. Ultimately the root growth creates a stoppage and the City implements an emergency repair. The Public Works Department is proposing creation of a new maintenance program specifically to address the root intrusion problem. The proposed program would be funded through the existing Sewer Line Replacement Project, P-230, which is funded through the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The new program would address approximately 8 miles of the affected sewer mains each year with the goal of treating approximately 40 miles of mains over a 5 year			

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period. The actual number of miles of mains to be treated will be determined by City staff and given to the contractor for completion each year. Each annual application will be based on budgetary approval and allocation of funds to the program. It is anticipated that the annual cost would be approximately \$50,000 a year for 5 years, at a total cost of \$250,000.

During the course of the program, Public Works anticipates continuing the replacement of mains where needed and accessible. However, approximately 25% of the mains impacted by root intrusion are located in easements behind residential properties, or crossing under Ballona Creek and the I-405 and SR-90 Freeways. It may not be possible to replace or re-line these mains and chemical treatment may need to continue.

The root intrusion maintenance will be accomplished through the application of herbicides to dissolve the roots and inhibit root re-growth. The crews performing the maintenance and the herbicides used are required to comply with all Federal, State and Local ordinances pertaining to the type of work, particularly the laws and ordinances relating to transportation of material (United States Department of Transportation), the application of sewer root control herbicides (US Environmental Protection Agency), and traffic safety regulations. All work will be performed by Certified Pesticide Applicators licensed with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The types of herbicides used, if applied correctly, are approved for use in sewer lines and treatment facilities. These herbicides are currently being used in other jurisdictions' systems both private and public, including the City of Los Angeles who provides sewage treatment services to Culver City.

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with City Charter Section 1304, relating to maintenance of sewers and Municipal Code Section 3.07.070 B.6., relating to maintenance of City-owned real property, the Public Works Department issued a request for bids (RFB) on April 13, 2005. Bids were requested from qualified sewer-root abatement contractors to treat affected sewer mains by applying foam or other herbicidal root growth inhibitors and dissolvers. On April 22, 2005, the Public Works Department received bids from three qualified contractors. The contractors responded with the following bid amounts:

<i>CONTRACTOR</i>	<i>PIPE SIZE IN INCHES</i>	<i>UNIT PRICE PER LINEAR FOOT OF TREATMENT</i>
Duke's Root Control, Inc.	6"	\$0.68
	8"	\$0.68
Pacific Sewer Maintenance Corp.	6"	\$0.82
	8"	\$0.82

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Whyte Plumbing, Inc.	6"	\$2.24
	8"	\$2.24

Staff reviewed the lowest bidder's bid, Duke's Root Control, Inc., (Duke's) and found the bid documents complete. The insurance information was reviewed and determined to meet City requirements.

In order to test the process prior to issuing a request for bids, the City contracted with Duke's to perform a limited application on a portion of the City's mains. At the beginning of this calendar year Duke's treated approximately 3.2 miles of sewer mains. City staff determined that the application was successful and no problems were encountered. Staff is recommending commencement of the program as a result of this prior success. Duke's and its competitors who responded to staff's RFB all have a prior successful history in applying the herbicides and dissolvers which remove the roots without harming trees.

Sewer Maintenance Division staff will perform project management and inspections and the maintenance program will commence in January 2006.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Based on the annual anticipated costs of approximately \$50,000 a year for 5 years, totaling \$250,000, and the anticipated reduction in potential emergency repairs in the treated areas, there are sufficient funds allocated for this project in the Capital Improvement Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2005/06 with Sewer Enterprise Funds.

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

- 1) Award a maintenance contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc. for work under the Sewer Line Replacement Project, P-230, based on its bid amounts, not to exceed \$50,000 annually, for a period of five (5) years, not to exceed a total of \$250,000; and
- 2) Direct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary documents and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the contract.