

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: August 28, 2006		Item Number: <u>A-5</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Award a New Five-year Agreement to West Coast Arborists for Tree Trimming Services.			
Contact Person/Dept: Eric Mirzaian Public Works-Maintenance Operations		Phone Number: (310) 253-6410	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List on 8/23/06; West Coast Arborists on 8/21/2006			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson 8/16/06		City Manager Approval: Martin Cole for Jerry Fulwood 8/22/06	
City Controller Approval: Marlee Chang 8/21/06			

RECOMMENDATION:

It is respectfully recommended the City Council authorize entering into a new five-year agreement with West Coast Arborists (WCA) for tree trimming services throughout Culver City.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1993, Culver City has utilized the services of WCA to provide tree trimming throughout the City. The initial agreement expired in 1996 and the City entered into a new agreement with WCA following a formal competitive bid process. This agreement recently expired on June 30, 2006.

Throughout the years, WCA has gained a reputation as a competent, conscientious contractor and staff has been impressed with their professionalism and high quality tree maintenance services. Additionally, numerous compliments from the community have also been received. As their experience in Culver City has increased, WCA has become more efficient and knowledgeable about the City's tree population.

DISCUSSION:

Throughout previous agreements with WCA, the City of Culver City has taken advantage of competitive rates provided by WCA. These competitive rates have been possible due to WCA's extensive experience and knowledge of the City's tree population and the fact that WCA has a yard located nearby in Beverly Hills. The close proximity of WCA's yard and the fact that they have a large contract in Beverly

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Hills and other nearby cities has allowed WCA to have low production costs and these low costs have translated into savings for the City.

The Public Works Department has continued to maintain one in-house tree trimming crew (4 crew members & 1 Pest Control Technician who serves as crew leader) to supplement the services provided by WCA. During Fiscal Year 2005-06, WCA trimmed approximately 2,600 trees, while 1,300 trees were trimmed by the Public Works Department.

In July of 2006, WCA submitted a new five year proposal to the City. The new proposal represents a ten percent (10%) increase over the tree trimming rates that are currently paid by the City. Over the last ten years, the costs of labor, fuel, equipment and insurance have increased significantly. The proposed increase is designed to address these operating cost increases. The new proposal includes trimming for seven of the most common species throughout the City (Jacaranda, Podocarpus, Southern Magnolia, Canary Island Pine, Washington Palms, Ficus, and Chinese Elm) at a specific trimming frequency recommended for each of these species as outlined in WCA's proposal, the grid pruning of all other trees throughout the City based on a five-year pruning cycle, and all other miscellaneous services including stump removal and tree planting. The new proposal will also include the development of an urban forestry website by WCA, which will allow residents to review maintenance schedules and look up information about the trees on their street such the last time it was trimmed and the next scheduled trim. Access to this website will be by way of link from the City's website.

A survey comparing the proposed agreement to the trimming contract services provided to other nearby municipalities yielded the following results for the average trimming cost per tree:

Culver City:	\$84/tree-species trimming (medium variety trees) \$172/tree-species trimming (large variety trees) \$50/tree-Washingtonia Palm trimming \$95/tree-grid pruning
Burbank:	\$144/tree-species trimming \$49/tree-palm tree trimming \$39/tree-grid pruning
Beverly Hills:	\$40/tree-species trimming (small variety trees) \$100/tree-species trimming (medium variety trees) \$200/tree-species trimming (large variety trees) \$50/tree-Washingtonia Palm trimming

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Santa Monica: \$144/tree-full trimming
 \$40/tree-clearance trimming

Based on the above, Staff believes that WCA's proposal is reasonable and competitive. Also, it should be noted that WCA's proposal is for the same price over the next five years. With contract costs increasing for other cities over the next five years, this comparison should become more favorable to Culver City over time.

Staff is recommending the City Council authorize the extension of the agreement with WCA by waiving the formal competitive bidding process. Staff has consistently received a high level of service from WCA. Additionally, WCA's knowledge and experience with Culver City's tree population and the close proximity of their yard in Beverly Hills serves as an advantage over other firms by allowing WCA to provide a more cost-effective and responsive service to the City.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The cost of the proposed agreement will be \$480,317 annually (Fiscal Year 2006-07 through 2010-11) and includes the trimming of approximately 2,500 species trees and the grid pruning of approximately 1,500 trees annually in addition to the stump removal and the planting of new trees.

Funding for the tree trimming services provided by WCA will be through the following Public Works Department-Tree Maintenance Section account:

10161600.619800

ATTACHMENTS:

1. WCA Tree Trimming Proposal.

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize entering into a new five-year agreement with West Coast Arborists for tree trimming services throughout the City in accordance with their new proposal.
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare the necessary documents and authorize the City Manager to approve the documents.