

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: <u>04/13/2015</u>		Item Number: C-6
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: FOUR-FIFTHS VOTE REQUIREMENT - (1) Approval of an Agreement with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$150,000 to Purchase and Plant 300 Trees in the City's Parkways; and (2) Approval of a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$150,000.		
Contact Person/Dept.: Joe Susca	Phone Number: (310) 253-5636	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐	General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐	Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☐
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒ Date: _____		
Public Notification: (E-mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (04/08/15); TreePeople (03/30/15); The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (03/25/15)		
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (04/02/15)	City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (04/06/15)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (04/07/15)	City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (04/08/15)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council (1) approve an agreement with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000 for the purchase, planting, and first-year watering of 300 trees in the City's parkways; and (2) approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$150,000.¹ A budget amendment requires a 4/5ths affirmative vote. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Over the years, the City has lost a number of trees due to age, disease, storm damage, and other factors. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a vibrant urban forest, the City has been dedicating funds from its General Fund to replace trees on an ongoing basis. On average, the City loses 120 trees and plants 180 new trees annually. This represents a significant investment of City resources; however, even with these investments, the City still has a significant backlog of vacant tree planting sites remaining. According to the City's tree inventory, there are over 1,300 vacant tree locations in the City's parkways. Additionally, the City has conducted a review of the City's parks and identified twenty locations that are suitable for tree plantings. Given the age of the City's urban forest and the likelihood that additional trees will reach the end of their lifecycles in the next few years, based upon City Council approval provided at the December 10, 2012 Regular Meeting, the City applied for and was awarded a \$150,000 grant through Supervisor Mark Ridley-		

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Thomas' 2012 Competitive Tree Planting Grant Program to cover the cost to plant 300 new trees. The grant requires the City to hire at-risk youths to assist with planting the trees

The 300 tree species were initially selected using the City's existing Street Tree Master Plan. Artecho, the City's Urban Forest Plan consultant, visited the parkway locations and, where necessary, identified alternative tree species to plant in order to adhere to the specifications being developed in the Urban Forest Plan. All tree and site selections are designed to have minimal impacts to public and private infrastructure such as sidewalks, sewers, storm drains, and other utilities.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to the City Council's direction provided at the August 25, 2014 Regular Meeting, in January 2015, staff released a Request for Proposals for the purchase, planting, and watering of 300 24" box trees and received the following two responses:

Firm Name	Cost	Schedule
TreePeople	\$150,000	16 weeks
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	\$150,000	10 weeks

TreePeople's mission is to promote sustainability and to inspire, engage, and support people to take personal responsibility for their urban environment. In addition to educating members of the public on how to plant and care for trees, their crew primarily consists of volunteers who perform tree plantings on weekends.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps' (Corps) mission is to provide at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities for success through job skills training, education, and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects that benefit the community. The Corps is better equipped to plant 24" box trees, and their proposal reflects hiring more at-risk youth crewmembers than TreePeople's. As the Corps' proposal more closely adheres to the requirements of the grant, staff recommends selecting the Corps to complete the project.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The grant award is \$150,000 and will cover the \$150,000 cost to purchase, plant, and water the newly planted trees once per week for the first year. The grant requires an additional \$5,000 City match, which is in the form of in-kind services to manage the project.

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A Budget Amendment requires a 4/5ths vote.

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$150,000 (this action requires a four-fifths vote); and,
2. Approve an Agreement with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the purchase, planting and watering of 300 trees in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000; and,
3. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.

¹Typically, residential parkways with irrigation systems are operated in a manner that serves the needs of shallow rooted plants and grass. Newly planted trees however, require deeper watering to reach their roots to establish their roots and to promote growth. For the first year, a watering tank truck will drive along the parkway of the newly planted trees and use a spout to pour 15 gallons of water onto each tree well every week. When a vehicle is parked along the curb adjacent to a newly planted tree, the truck driver will manually water the tree using a 5-gallon bucket. During or after heavier rainstorms however, the weekly watering activity will be suspended.