

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: JULY 22, 2024

SUBJECT: FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AT THE FORMER RIVERSIDE GOLF CLUB WITH ABILITY COUNTS, INC. – EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR UNTIL JULY 31, 2025 – INCREASE THE AGREEMENT IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$29,400 FOR A REVISED TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$58,800

ISSUES:

Consider approving the First Amendment to the Services Agreement for Irrigation System Maintenance at the former Riverside Golf Club with Ability Counts, Inc., extending the term for one additional year until July 31, 2025 and increasing the agreement in the not-to-exceed amount of \$29,400 for a revised total of \$58,800.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Approve the First Amendment to the Services Agreement for Irrigation System Maintenance at the former Riverside Golf Club with Ability Counts, Inc., extending the term for one additional year until July 31, 2025 and increasing the agreement in the not-to-exceed amount of \$29,400 for a revised total of \$58,800; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the First Amendment to the Services Agreement, including making minor, non-substantive changes, and to sign all documents and instruments necessary to complete the transaction.

BACKGROUND:

The former Riverside Golf Club was constructed in 1948 on property owned by the Riverside Public Utilities Department (RPU) as a recreational golf venue within the City of Riverside. In 2009, the golf club operator filed for bankruptcy, which led to the golf course's closure. At that time, maintenance responsibilities for the former golf club reverted to RPU, which covered approximately 120 acres of grass, trees, and other miscellaneous facilities. Due to being irrigated alongside grass, the trees on the golf course developed shallow root systems. Soon after the golf course closed, the irrigation system and its source water well were vandalized, rendering it inoperable.

RPU considered various options to irrigate the former golf course, including repairing the old water well and irrigation system. However, these options were cost-prohibitive and would require ongoing maintenance and operational costs. The need for an irrigation solution became urgent with the extended drought and bark beetle infestations, which resulted in several trees dying. In 2015, manual watering of the trees and treatment for the bark beetle infestations began.

Recognizing the need for a deeper root system to improve tree health and resilience to future drought stress, RPU installed a drip irrigation system in 2016. This system, designed to water each tree's root zone within the canopy uniformly, has significantly improved tree health and water conservation. The system's automatic controller further enhances watering efficiency by isolating the irrigation system during rainy days and running it during water demand cycles. The irrigation system is extensive and provides water for almost 400 trees, and outside contractors are needed to ensure that it continues to operate efficiently and effectively.

DISCUSSION:

Following the City's procurement procedure, Ability Counts, Inc., was selected to perform irrigation system maintenance at the former Riverside Golf Club for a period of one year until July 31, 2024 in the not-to-exceed amount of \$29,400. The maintenance at the former Riverside Golf Club is a continuous effort and Ability Counts, Inc. agreed to extend the maintenance services for one additional year at the same rate.

Although the amount of the First Amendment is less than \$50,000, the contract total after the First Amendment will exceed \$50,000. This item is being brought before the Board of Public Utilities because Section 1202(b) of the Riverside City Charter provides that the Board of Public Utilities shall have the power and duty to authorize, and let public works contracts in compliance with Section 1109, within the limits of the budget of the Department of Public Utilities, any purchase of equipment, materials, supplies, goods or services, or any acquisition, construction, improvement, extension, enlargement, diminution, or curtailment of all or any part of any public utility system when the amount exceeds \$50,000, and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute contracts or issue purchase orders for the same.

Purchasing Resolution 24101 Section 1104 (b) states, "Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the Awarding Entity, Change Orders which cumulatively exceed the following will require Awarding Entity approval.... (b) Any Change Order which causes the contract price to exceed the authorization in section 203 hereof, if the Contract and/or Purchase Order was not previously approved by the Awarding Entity."

The Purchasing Manager concurs that the recommended actions are in compliance with Purchasing Resolution 24101.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The High-Performance Government strategic priority focuses on fiscal responsibility which includes being a prudent steward of public funds to provide exceptional public services that are efficient, accessible, and responsive to all. Obtaining ongoing maintenance services at the lowest possible cost meets the following strategic goal:

Goal 5.4 – Achieve and maintain financial health by addressing gaps between revenue and expenditures and aligning resources with strategic priorities to yield the greatest impact.

This item aligns with EACH of the five cross-cutting threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – RPU is committed to transparency and making decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, and involvement of the Board of Public Utilities and City Council.
2. **Equity** – Riverside is supportive of the City’s racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, identity, geographic, and other attributes of diversity and is committed to advancing the fairness of treatment, recognition of rights, and equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds, and this item ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources by extending a services agreement at the lowest cost to our ratepayers.
4. **Innovation** – Riverside is inventive and timely in meeting the community’s changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships with vendors.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This services agreement maintains nearly 400 trees within City property illustrating the commitment to the environment and sustainability.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for the First Amendment is \$29,400. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities Water Engineering Property Management Account No. 6210000-457004.

Prepared by:	David A. Garcia, Interim Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	David A. Garcia, Interim Utilities General Manager
Certified as to availability of funds:	Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Approved by:	Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Project Site Map
2. First Amendment to Services Agreement
3. Presentation