



THIRD AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH WEST COAST ARBORISTS FOR UTILITY LINE CLEARANCE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Energy Delivery

Board of Public Utilities
December 13, 2021

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1

BACKGROUND

1. Utility line clearance includes tree trimming and vegetation management; a vital function to maintain safe clearance between RPU's electric lines and trees
2. Safety and reliability of service demand vegetation management in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission's General Order 95 Rule 35
3. RPU trims approximately 20,000 trees per year to keep safe clearances and reduce threats of service interruptions
4. Preventative strategy in RPU's Wildfire Mitigation Plan to help reduce risks of wildfires cause by electrical infrastructure



2

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BACKGROUND

Line clearance work requires use of certified tree trimmers and certified arborists as per the ANSI Tree Pruning Standards, Industry leading practices, and the City's Urban Forestry Policy



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3

BACKGROUND

1. On November 6, 2015, the Board approved a Professional Service Agreement with West Coast Arborists, (WCA) Inc. for RFP No. 1515 for Citywide Utility Line Clearance and Vegetation Management Services
2. Five-year agreement, ending October 31, 2020, with two optional one-year extensions for a total value not to exceed \$13,200,000
3. On April 13, 2020, the First Amendment was put into place due to the passage of California Senate Bill 247, which mandated higher labor rates for line clearance tree trimmers; no increase in contract compensation
4. On December 22, 2020, the Board approved the Second Amendment to the Agreement for a one-year term extension, ending October 31, 2021, for the annual amount not-to-exceed \$3,500,000

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4

CONTRACT COST SUMMARY

Contract Year	Approved Contract Value	Actual Costs Incurred
1 (2015/2016)	\$2,400,000	\$1,862,053.88
2 (2016/2017)	\$2,700,000	\$1,568,481.50
3 (2017/2018)	\$2,700,000	\$2,004,781.75
4 (2018/2019)	\$2,700,000	\$1,513,275.75
5 (2019/2020)	\$2,700,000	\$2,559,122.18
6 (2020/2021)	\$3,500,000	\$2,437,430.19
Total	\$13,200,000	\$11,945,145.25



5

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DISCUSSION

1. On July 2, 2021, a new RFP for line clearance and vegetation management was issued
2. RFP was cancelled since proposal award criteria needed clarification to clearly identify how each of the bid items were weighted with respect to overall costs, to ensure proposals will be evaluated in a balanced manner
3. Second Amendment to Agreement expired on October 31, 2021, and a purchase order was issued to WCA for emergency trimming services in the amount of \$25,000, pursuant to section 702c of the Purchasing Resolution
4. Staff is currently working with Purchasing on a new RFP to secure a vendor as soon as possible to perform these vital services and return to Board for approval



6

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DISCUSSION

5. Since 2015, WCA has successfully performed electric line clearance and vegetation management services
6. Staff has determined that a six-month contract extension is in the best interest of the City
7. The six-month extension with a not to exceed amount of \$1,254,855 for this term will not increase the overall contract value of \$13,200,000 due to cost savings in previous years

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7

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility & Connectivity and Goal No. 6.2 – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

This item aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Ensuring that Riverside's electric lines can safely be maintained and operated and continue to provide reliable electricity to the City's service territory and its communities serves the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – Utility line clearance and vegetation management are key components to continue providing provide safe and reliable electric service equitably to all of RPU's customers.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Effective negotiation with the existing vendor ensured RPU got the best price and schedule based on years of experience dealing with vendor and associated scope of work services.
4. **Innovation** – With a great focus on electric line clearance and vegetation management, electric grid operators can focus on efficient grid operations and develop innovative strategies for remote device operations without having to compromise safety.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Maintaining electric lines and clearing tree branches and overgrown vegetation reduces the risk of electric outages and damage to equipment as a result of line faults due to tree contact with energized lines.

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8

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Approve the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Utility Line Clearance and Vegetation Management Service for Citywide Area with West Coast Arborists, Inc., for a six-month extension; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Third Amendment to the Agreement for Utility Line Clearance and Vegetation Management Service for Citywide Area with West Coast Arborists, Inc., including making minor and non-substantive changes.