



**FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SERVICES AGREEMENT  
WITH JAMES HUSS DBA WEST SWPPP SERVICES FOR  
WEED ABATEMENT SERVICES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
PROPERTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,000, FOR A  
REVISED CONTRACT TOTAL OF FOR \$98,000**

**Public Utilities – Water Engineering**

**Board of Public Utilities**

March 10, 2025

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1

## BACKGROUND

1. Weed abatement is a mandated program and fire abatement is year-round activity due to drought
  - a. Abatement compliance is critical for RPU to reduce risk to life and property
2. Forty-eight properties require weed abatement
  - a. Both Electric and Water sites across San Bernardino and Riverside counties
3. June 27, 2023, RPU's last contractor, Scott Tractor, defaulted
4. Dec. 11, 2023, the RPU Board terminated Scott Tractor's contract



2

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2

## BACKGROUND

5. Various "fill-in" contractors were used for weed abatement services as an interim solution
6. In August 2023 staff solicited for weed abatement and trash removal service contractors
  - a. Vendors informed Purchasing that they could not do all tasks from the prior agreement
  - b. No vendors could do trash removal along with weed abatement
7. Staff determined scope of work needed to be split for each County area and that trash removal would not be included
8. In April 2024 seven contractors were informally solicited for bids, we received three responsive bids



3

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3

## BACKGROUND

9. West SWPPP Services was lowest responsive bidder for both Counties
10. Purchase Order # 244645 was established for \$49,000, and services started July 1, 2024
11. Weed abatement this fiscal year has been greater than anticipated due to dry, fire weather conditions that require more removals in what would have typically been the wet season
12. Additional work will need to be completed before a new RFP can be issued and a contract executed



4

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4

## DISCUSSION

1. In March 2025, staff will release a new RFB for multi-year weed abatement services to begin July 1, 2025
2. To continue services, an increase in the services agreement with West SWPPP from \$49,000 to \$98,000 is needed to maintain abatement compliance until July 1, 2025
3. Board approval is required to increase the services agreement above \$50,000



5

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5

## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



### Strategic Priority 6 - Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity

**Goal 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.

### Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Equity



Fiscal Responsibility



Innovation



Sustainability &amp; Resiliency



6

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6

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Approve the First Amendment to the Services Agreement with James Huss dba West SWPPP Services for weed abatement services of Public Utilities properties in the amount of \$49,000, for a revised contract total of \$98,000; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the First Amendment and any other documents necessary to effectuate the project described herein, as well as the ability to make minor non-substantive changes in accordance with all purchasing policies.



7

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