



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

CONSENT
April 27, 2010

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Tree Pruning and Removal Services FY08/09 – 09/10

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** increasing the cumulative not to exceed amount of the tree pruning and removal services contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (City Contract No. 2006-322) by \$300,000 to \$2,300,000.

Contact: Joe Benassini, Urban Forestry Manager, (916) 808-6258

Presenters: None

Department: Transportation

Division: Urban Forestry Services

Organization No: 15001811

Description/Analysis

Issue: The urban forest of the City of Sacramento contains over 100,000 street and park trees managed by the Urban Forestry division. In recent history the division has expended an average of \$550,000 per fiscal year on contracted tree pruning and removal services to augment City staff efforts to meet maintenance needs. Urban Forestry Services is in the last year of a two-year contract for tree care. This staff reports seeks to increase the cumulative not to exceed amount of the contract by \$300,000.00 to allow completion of the Street Tree pruning cycle for the entire Central City area.

Policy Considerations: This recommendation supports Goal 3.1 ER of the Environmental Resources element of the City's General Plan: Manage the Urban Forest as an environmental, economic and aesthetic resource to improve Sacramento resident's quality of life.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The project involves the approval of a contract for on-going maintenance activities of existing landscaping. Therefore, in accordance with Section 15301(h) of the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Sustainability Considerations: This action supports the Sustainability Master Plan Focus Area of Parks, Open Space and Habitat Conservation by maintaining and expanding the Urban Forest and achieving the region's Greenprint goal.

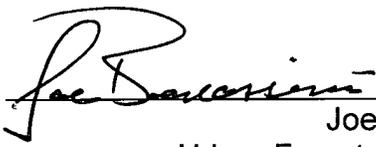
Other: None.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: In 2008, the Urban Forestry division implemented a programmed approach to street tree pruning by scheduling routine pruning on a block-by-block/street-by-street basis. This proactive approach, coupled with a modern computerized work management system, has generated savings by reducing the need to respond to demand-based pruning. Savings have been realized through reduced fleet costs as well as greater efficiencies in scheduling and work practices. However, based on currently available resources and funding, the city-wide programmed street tree pruning cycle is forecast to remain at almost twenty years, fully four times longer than the recommended cycle for municipal trees. This request allows sufficient additional funding within the existing tree care contract to complete the programmed pruning in the Central City area. This area represents the greatest concentration of mature trees and is the source of a large majority on-demand crew response and of tree-related damage claims.

Financial Considerations: Street Tree maintenance is supported by the Citywide Landscape and Lighting District (Fund 2232). There are no general funds allocated for this program. The amount requested represents an increase in the total two-year contract of approximately 27 percent, to be paid for through savings within Urban Forestry Services' operating budget.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Specifications of Bid No. B07118038 require that 20% of the work under this contract will be performed by a City Certified Emerging/Small Business. The current contract (City Contract No. 2006-322) was awarded to West Coast Arborists Inc. (WCA), a firm specializing in municipal tree care. The City Certified Emerging Business Enterprise subcontracted to WCA is Fallen Leaf Tree Services Inc., 6000 Midway Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95829.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Joe Benassini
Urban Forestry Manager

Approved by: 
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

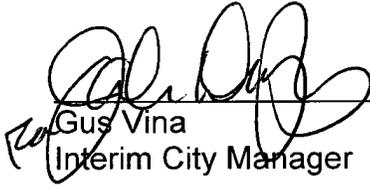

Gus Vina
Interim City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background**

Contracted street tree pruning and removal services supplement those performed by City staff. The existing contract for programmed pruning is \$2 million for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Staff is recommending increasing the cumulative not to exceed amount of the contract from \$2,000,000 to \$2,300,000 to allow expansion of street tree pruning in the Central City area. Expanding programmed tree care proactively reduces the potential for tree failures and associated damage claims as well as reduces on demand/on-call service requests. Regularly cycled programmed forestry operations result in significant savings against demand based response. The Central City area tree population contains a high percentage of the City's largest and most mature trees and generates the majority of service requests and damage claims due to tree or tree branch failure. Additionally, the Central City contains a large portion of the English and American elm trees, both subject to fatal Dutch Elm-Disease (DED). From 1990 to 2001, there were 136 confirmed DED elms, and from 2002 to 2005 there were 205 confirmed DED elms. From 2006 until 2009, there have been 250 confirmed DED infected elm tree that have required removal. Delays in the removal process can result in a greatly increased potential for infection of surrounding trees. This disease is most active from April through September.

The requested increase is consistent with the amount that will be requested for annually contracted tree care for FY 2011 through FY 2015. The additional amount will be funded through the Citywide Landscape and Lighting District assessment allocated to the division's operating budget. No general fund dollars are used for this program. The table below illustrates an example of additional work that will be performed in the Central City area under the increased amount.

Trunk Diameter (in.)	Number of Trees	Cost per Tree	Total
0 to 3	402	\$52.50	\$21,105.00
4 to 6	330	\$52.50	\$17,325.00
7 to 12	585	\$52.50	\$30,712.50
13 to 18	350	\$157.50	\$55,125.00
19 to 24	300	\$157.50	\$47,250.00
25 to 36	307	\$262.50	\$80,587.50
37 to 48	130	\$420.00	\$42,000.00
48 +	14	\$420.00	\$5,880.00
Total	2,388		\$299,985.00

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL SERVICES CONTRACT
(CITY CONTRACT NO. 2006-322) INCREASE**

BACKGROUND

- A. The City of Sacramento has over 100,000 street and park trees. In order to effectively manage and maintain the health of the urban forest, Urban Forestry Services issues a contract for tree pruning and removal services to supplement services provided by City staff.
- B. On December 12, 2006 City Council adopted Resolution 2006-911 awarding Contract 2006-322 to West Coast Arborists, Inc. for tree pruning and removal services for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$2,000,000 for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010.
- C. Increasing the cumulative not to exceed amount of the tree pruning and removal services contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (City Contract No. 2006-322) from \$2,000,000 to \$2,300,000 will allow expansion of street tree pruning in the Central City area.
- D. Expanding programmed tree care proactively reduces the potential for tree failures and associated damage claims as well as reduces on demand/on-call service requests.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The tree pruning and removal services contract with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (City Contract No. 2006-322) for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 is increased to a not to exceed amount of \$2,300,000.