



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



DEPARTMENT: Fire & Rescue

MEETING DATE: May 15, 2018

PREPARED BY: Brad Dover, Fire Chief

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-3

TITLE: Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc., dated July 19, 2016, to Include Brush Clearance and Hazardous Vegetation Management Services in the Very High Fire Severity Zone for the Period Ending June 30, 2019

OBJECTIVE: To approve an amendment of the existing contract with West Coast Arborists (WCA), Inc., adding brush clearance and hazardous vegetation management services in the Very High Fire Severity Zone (VHFSZ). Clearance of these public lands is required by the fire code also an identified project area in Monrovia’s Community Wildland Protection Program (CWPP).

BACKGROUND: Beginning in May of each year, firefighters canvas the neighborhoods in the VHFSZ, inspecting over 1400 properties. As a state designated wildfire zone, the City of Monrovia is required to administer and enforce brush compliance regulations around roadways, structures and other high-risk areas. These regulations are outlined in the Monrovia Municipal Code (MMC), Chapter 8.14. The requirements provide the minimum standards necessary to safeguard life, property, and public welfare by ensuring that hazardous vegetation and other hazardous conditions in the city are prevented or promptly abated.

By completing the proposed brush clearance and hazardous vegetation removal, the City will be taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of state law and the MMC. Moreover, an effective brush clearance program is essential to safeguarding lives, properties and infrastructure.

ANALYSIS: WCA is currently contracted by the City for routine tree maintenance and emergency tree removal services. In addition, in 2014, WCA was retained by the fire department to complete hazardous tree removals in the VHFSZ. That particular initiative was a grant funded project focused solely on palm trees due to the hazards they present in a wildfire. WCA provided quality services and completed the required work on time.

In assessing our current brush clearance needs for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, three companies spent ample time with fire department personnel examining each project area and the unique hazards associated with them. During this time, it became clear that WCA’s familiarity with Monrovia and their previous work in the VHFSZ provided them with a much better understanding of the scope of each project area. The projects require a contractor that understands how to correctly modify the fuels, not just arbitrarily clear brush.

Additionally, of the three companies that were interested in the brush clearance work, WCA submitted the lowest bid price, as outlined in the table below.

West Coast Arborists, Inc.	Anaheim, CA	\$28,350.00
Mariposa Landscape, Inc.	Irwindale, CA	\$47,730.00
California Conservation Corps	Pomona, CA	\$49,280.00

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FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated cost for the identified work in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 with WCA is approximately \$30,000. Funds for next fiscal year will be allocated separately in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget.

OPTIONS: The following options are provided for consideration:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 2019, for brush clearance and hazardous vegetation management services, and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to the Fire Department Community Risk Reduction budget for the current fiscal year.

- 2) Reject the contract and direct staff to research additional brush clearance options.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends option one; approval of the amendment to the agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc., and appropriate funds in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 for brush clearance and hazardous vegetation management services for Fiscal Year 2017-2019.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: If the City Council concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to appropriate \$30,000 to the Fire Department Community Risk Reduction budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc., dated July 19, 2016, to Include Brush Clearance and Hazardous Vegetation Management Services in the Very High Fire Severity Zone for the Period Ending June 30, 2019, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents in a form approved by the City Attorney