



STAFF REPORT

City Council

Meeting Date: 10/11/2016

Staff Report Number: 16-175-CC

Consent Calendar: **Authorize the City Manager to increase the contract for the Herbicide Free Parks Pilot up to the budgeted amount**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council to authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the City's contract with Ecological Concerns Incorporated (ECI) in the amount of \$42,550 for the herbicide free parks pilot.

Policy Issues

On August 25, 2015, the City Council adopted an updated Integrated Pest Management Policy and approved funding for an herbicide free parks pilot at four parks within the City. As a part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, the City Council approved funding for the pilot in the amount of \$100,000. The original contracting authority authorized by the City Council is \$86,000 per the action on August 25, 2015. Without a modification to the contracting authority, the City cannot spend the budgeted amount to complete the pilot project.

Background

Following approval of the herbicide free parks pilot program, staff developed and released a detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the pilot program. Five firms attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting to learn about the pilot program, and three proposals were received. ECI was selected because it was the lowest priced qualified and responsive proposer.

Analysis

The pilot program began in FY 2015-16. In order to cover a full 12 months and span the full weed-growing cycle, the pilot is being conducted over two fiscal years for a total amount of \$128,550. The annual costs are above the initial estimate, but the costs were incorporated into a balanced City budget for FY 2016-17. Once the pilot is near completion, staff will be able to provide updated information regarding the effectiveness of the program in controlling weeds, maintaining public parks to the City's standards, and estimated costs going forward based on actual implementation data.

Initial feedback from residents and staff has been positive regarding the program in the four herbicide free pilot parks: Bedwell Bayfront, Fremont, Willow Oaks, and Stanford Hills. No maintenance or safety issues have been reported as a result of the program to date. Once the pilot is near completion, staff plans to report back with data and an updated cost estimate, and provide the Council with the opportunity to continue and/or expand the program.

Impact on City Resources

There is no additional impact on City resources associated with this action because funds were approved as part of the FY 2016-17 adopted City budget.

Environmental Review

Environmental review is not required for this action.

Public Notice

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Attachments

None

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