



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 11, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR CALUBAQUIB
BEN HEISTEIN, ASSISTANT PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT TO DAVEY RESOURCE
GROUP, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$268,664 FOR THE
WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECT

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG) is the corporation selected through an RFP process by City Staff that will provide consultant services to assist the City in developing an Urban Forest Management Plan, Tree Protection Ordinance and other related services to meet the requirements of a CAL FIRE funded grant project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution that:

1. Awards the contract for consultant services for the Watsonville Community Forestry Project to Davey Resource Group, Inc. in the amount of \$268,664, and
2. Authorizes the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements, and
3. Appropriates \$268,664 from the Special Grants fund (337) for the project.

DISCUSSION:

The City Council authorized the submittal of an application for CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Program grant funds on April 14, 2020 by Resolution No. 46-20 (CM). Following the application, the City was awarded a \$700,000 grant from The CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program in August 2020.

The program's goal is to optimize the benefits of trees and related vegetation through multiple objective projects as specified in the California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (Public Resources Code 4799.06-4799.12). This grant program uses funds provided by Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for California Climate Investments (CCI) and projects that further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), result in a net greenhouse gas (GHG) benefit, and provide environmental services and cost-effective solutions to the needs of urban communities and local agencies. Co-benefits of the projects include increased water supply, clean air and water, reduced energy use, flood and storm water management, recreation, urban revitalization, improved public health, and producing

useful products such as bio-fuel, clean energy, and high quality wood. Projects may provide a combination of these co-benefits or other co-benefits not mentioned, or even benefits that are not yet clearly defined. Urban and Community Forestry efforts play a significant role in meeting the State's GHG emission reduction targets. Cal Fire encourages resident participation in the development and implementation of each project, although due to the size and complexity of projects, applicants are limited to local agencies and non-profit organizations.

The awarded Watsonville Community Forestry Project will develop and implement comprehensive urban forest management activities designed to evaluate current urban forest resources, identify locations, opportunities, and needs for urban forest expansion activities, develop appropriate policies to sustain and enhance urban forest resources within the City of Watsonville over time, and implement urban forest expansion activities in a way that advances these efforts. This project is consistent with past planning efforts such as the Urban Greening Plan (2012) and the Climate Action Plan (2015). The Parks and Community Services Department will work with local residents, city departments, community partners, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and consultants to achieve project objectives.

Specific project objectives include:

1. Develop an urban forest inventory for the City of Watsonville
2. Develop an urban forest management plan, per CalFire guidelines
3. Develop project designs and plans for at least 30 future street, neighborhood, and school tree plantings that can be implemented following the urban forest management plan creation
4. Develop a City of Watsonville tree preservation ordinance
5. Complete a resident survey to support the urban forest management plan and ordinance development
6. Establish a tree canopy cover goal for the City
7. In partnership with Watsonville Wetlands Watch, install 260 trees on City streets, parks, and neighborhoods during 20 public and local student education and outreach events that will also include surveying of residents
8. In partnership with Watsonville Wetlands Watch, pilot resident neighborhood tree planting events and an adopt-a-tree tree stewardship program to engage City residents in urban forest stewardship and foster public interest and appreciation for urban forest expansion

Davey Resource Group Selection & Project Scope

In order to meet objectives 1-6, the City put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant services in January of 2021 and received proposals from the following firms:

Company	Company Headquarters
Davey Resource Group	Kent, OH
PlanIt Geo	Arvada, CO
West Coast Arborists	Anaheim, CA
Dudek	Encinitas, CA

The consultant proposals were scored and the top firms interviewed. Through this competitive process, City staff determined that Davey Resource Group's proposal best met the needs of the City. Their scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The development of a City Tree Inventory of up to 6,000 trees
- i-Tree Eco Sample Inventory of private property and wetland trees
- Urban Tree Canopy and Land Cover Assessment
- Urban Tree Canopy Mapping and Analysis including a Priority Planting Index and Canopy Goal Identification
- 50 Year Urban Forest Management Plan
- Tree Protection Ordinance
- Tree Species List
- Project Specific Website
- Monthly Status Updates (calls)
- Operations Review
- Robust Community Engagement
- Community Survey
- Data Management and Delivery
- Other urban forestry consultant services according to CAL FIRE grant requirements

Following Council approval to award the bid, a kick off meeting will be held with Davey Resource Group. Once a tree inventory and canopy analysis is completed, DRG will help the City engage the community and stakeholders to start developing the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) to guide City tree policies and practices over the next 50 years. By 2023, a tree protection ordinance will be drafted and presented to City Council along with the UFMP. Throughout this time, the City will work with DRG and Watsonville Wetlands Watch to hold neighborhood planting events and pilot community tree stewardship models. The City anticipates a lot of community engagement throughout this process so residents can give input into the development of the UFMP.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This project meets the Council Strategic Priorities of 03-Infrastructure & Environment through tree planting and long-term planning to improve the environment and 05-Community Engagement & Well-Being, through engaging the community in the development of the UFMP and participation in tree plantings throughout the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This consultant contract will be funded entirely by the CAL-FIRE Urban Forestry Grant (337) Project #10070, with support of in-kind match in the form of staff time to support the project objectives and consultant scope of work.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council may choose not to award the bid.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

Attachment A: Request for Proposals