



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: January 24, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ann Mottola, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Agreement With West Coast Arborist, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$201,600, for Removal of Eucalypti on Crystal Springs Road From Donner Avenue, Westbound to the West End of the Recreation and Aquatic Center Construction Site

BACKGROUND: On October 11, 2022, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a four-year contract with West Coast Arborist, Inc. The contract includes two distinct contract elements: the Annual Pruning and Pollarding of Street Trees; and Tree Removal Related to Fire and Hazard Mitigation. The total four-year contract is authorized in an amount not to exceed \$1,093,465.

During the recent Winter Storm event, there have been numerous failures of a variety of tree species throughout the City, including several eucalypti. During the 2023 Winter Storm event to date, there were four large eucalypti failures on San Bruno Avenue and Sneath Avenue. A little over a year ago during the Christmas Holiday 2021, there was a failure of a large eucalyptus on Crystal Springs Road, and an earlier eucalyptus failure on Crystal Springs Road in October 2021. In all instances, these trees fell in the public right of way causing extended road closures and obstructing major evacuation routes within the City.

In addition to the threat of failure due to the age, size, and shallow root structure of eucalypti in these locations, eucalypti pose a significant fire hazard. The areas on both sides of Crystal Springs Road from Donner Avenue westbound to the County Open Space have been designated as an "extra hazardous fire condition" by the City of San Bruno Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, as many of the eucalypti are within 100 feet of City and private structures.

Removal of these trees is recommended to reduce the risk of fire spread to these adjacent properties, and to mitigate obstruction of evacuation routes in a catastrophic event.

DISCUSSION: The City's current contract with West Coast Arborist, Inc. includes for the first year of the contract approximately \$217,500 for the Annual Pruning and Pollarding of Street Trees; and \$40,000 for Tree Removal Related to Fire and Hazard Mitigation. The \$40,000 for Fire and Hazard Mitigation is the average that has been used in past years and is not adequate to address a strategic reduction of eucalypti on Crystal Springs Road.

Staff requested a quote from West Coast Arborist, Inc. for removal of approximately 30 eucalypti on both sides of Crystal Springs Road from Donner Avenue westbound to the west end of the

Recreation and Aquatic Center (RAC) construction site. The total cost is \$201,600. Staff reviewed this estimate, and it is consistent with the pricing included in their contract.

Due to the location of the trees proposed for removal, and their threat to the RAC in the event of a failure, Staff recommends including this tree removal as part of the RAC Project to be funded in the RAC project budget. Additional areas of eucalypti will be proposed for removal in the FY 2023-24 City Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT: The contract with West Coast Arborist for FY 2022-23 includes \$217,500 for the Annual Pruning and Pollarding of Street Trees; and \$40,000 for Tree Removal Related to Fire and Hazard Mitigation and is not adequate to cover this additional scope of work. This additional scope of work is \$201,600. This will bring the four-year contract cost to \$1,295,065. Sufficient appropriations exist in the RAC budget to accommodate the recommended contract amendment.

CONTRACT ELEMENT	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Pruning & Pollarding	217,500	226,200	235,248	244,658
Fire & Hazard Mitigation	40,000	41,600	43,264	44,995
Additional Scope	201,600			
TOTAL ANNUAL COST	459,100	267,800	278,512	289,653
TOTAL FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT COST				1,295,065

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption. Staff will not proceed with work until the exemption has been accepted.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the Agreement with West Coast Arborist, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$201,600, for removal of eucalypti on Crystal Springs Road from Donner Avenue, westbound to the west end of the Recreation and Aquatic Center construction site.

ALTERNATIVES: Decline request to approve tree removal project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Proposed Areas of Eucalypti Removal on Crystal Springs Road