

**CITY OF LONG BEACH**

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802

July 12, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Declare Ordinance read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading which, pursuant to Section 1806 of the City Charter, makes findings and determinations regarding contracting of landscape maintenance services; award contracts for Specifications No. PA-02105 to Midori Gardens and Azteca, in an estimated annual amount of \$789,588 for a one-year period; and authorize amendments to extend the term for three additional one-year periods, at the discretion of the City Manager. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

On November 4, 2003, the City Council adopted specifications and authorized the City Manager to advertise for bids to provide landscape maintenance services at various designated sites, including parks and street medians citywide. An extensive employee service delivery review process was initiated at the same time.

On July 21, 2004, the City entered into a Contract with William Vandergeest Landscape Care, Inc. (Vandergeest) to provide the street median landscaping citywide. Vandergeest recently informed the City that they will not be renewing their contract at the conclusion of the initial one-year contract period on July 21, 2005.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine assumed responsibility for street median landscape maintenance in October 2004. Since that time, we have learned a great deal regarding the scope of work and required service levels. The new contract will provide us the opportunity to add street medians that were inadvertently omitted from the original specifications and those that were recently assigned to the City as part of development agreements. The contract specifications were also adjusted to better reflect the maintenance needs of the various landscape elements (e.g., turf, shrubs, hardscape).

The bid specifications include a requirement that Proposition "L" contractors provide health care benefits, pay \$1.25 per hour in lieu of such benefits or pay prevailing wages (which already include a component for health benefits) to their full-time and part-time employees working under contract with the City. In addition, the specifications require

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the contractors to provide supplemental information, such as the number of employees, types of tools and vehicles used under the contract.

The bid specifications require all bidders to submit evidence indicative of their ability to finance, provide and sustain the specified services to the satisfaction of the City. This evidence includes a minimum of two consecutive years of recent experience providing services at facilities and areas similar in nature and scope to those required in this contract, a bidders bond, client and credit references, financial statements, work history and required licenses. Upon contract award and before the start of the contract, contractors are required to submit a performance bond, insurance certificates for commercial general liability, workers' compensation, auto and all risk property insurance, and an employee honesty bond. Finally, the contract has numerous financial remedies for contractor non-compliance and non-performance that include payment deductions.

The bid was advertised on May 4, 2005, and 26 potential bidders specializing in landscape maintenance services were notified of the bid opportunity; 7 are Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), 3 are Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBEs), and 4 are Long Beach businesses. The bid document was made available from the Purchasing Division located on the Plaza Level of City Hall and on the Purchasing Division website at www.lbpurchasing.org. A bid announcement was also included in the Purchasing Division's weekly update of Open Bid Opportunities sent to 32 local, minority, and women's groups. Bids were opened on May 20, 2005. Midori Gardens, of Santa Ana, CA and Azteca, of Ontario, CA, were the lowest responsible bidders.

The attached City Auditor's report certifies that the City's current cost to provide landscape maintenance services is \$2,422,376, and the total contractors' cost is \$686,598. According to the City Auditor's analysis, the contractor's cost is \$1,735,778 or 72 percent less when compared to the City's cost.

Based on the cost comparisons and City Auditor's review, it is recommended that the City Council award contracts for one year, with three one-year renewal options to Azteca Landscape and Midori Gardens, at the annual amount not to exceed \$789,588. The proposed annual amount is 15 percent above the contract bid cost to provide for optional and supplemental tasks, non-scheduled work and emergency functions to ensure public safety. The optional and supplemental tasks include irrigation repair, plant replacement, turf renovation, and special event preparation and repair for other areas. These tasks shall be evaluated by the City and performed on an as-needed basis, upon request.

On June 6, 2004, Ms. Janet Wright, President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, was notified by mail of the plans to award contracts

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for landscape maintenance services and that it is anticipated that no permanent employees will be laid off as a result of issuing these contracts.

This matter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna F. Gwin on April 28, 2005 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on June 2, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action to award contracts for Specifications No. PA-02105 is requested on July 12, 2005 to ensure that the new contracts are in place expeditiously. The current street median landscape services contract expires on July 21, 2005.

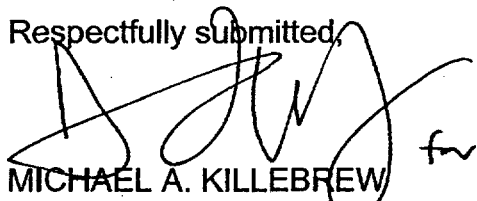
FISCAL IMPACT

The total amount of the contracts, in the estimated annual amount of \$789,588 is budgeted in the General Fund (GP) and Tidelands Fund (TF) in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR). There is no guarantee that all funds will be expended each year.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL A. KILLEBREW
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER

MAK:JV:LW:cm
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Attachments