




CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: APRIL 17, 2017

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM:  ROBERT YALDA, PE. T.E., PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
ALEX FARASSATI, PH.D., ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH Venco WESTERN, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$411,411.00 FOR OAK TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE ON LAS VIRGENES CREEK

MEETING DATE: APRIL 26, 2017

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a professional services agreement with Venco Western, Inc. in the amount of \$411,411.00 for Oak Trees Planting and Maintenance on Las Virgenes Creek (Attachment 1) added to the existing contract with Venco Western, Inc. in the amount of \$643,660.00.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Phase II of the Las Virgenes Creek restoration project calls for construction of nearly 1.5 miles of creekside trail, stabilizing the banks, restoring the creek and removing barriers to fish migration in Las Virgenes Creek between Agoura Road and D'Anza Park. Other features of this project include removing non-native trees, planting riparian and native trees, establishing walking trails along the creek, creating a habitat and water quality educational center and several public access points.

Since April 2016, the majority of non-native and dead trees have been removed as part of the overall Vegetation Management Plan. The remaining non-native and dead trees will be removed as soon as an agreement is reached with the Steeplechase Homeowners Association. Planting native trees shall follow the removal process and the recent favorable rainfall, encouraged expediting the tree planting phase.

At the same time, Planning staff informed Public Works staff that the Viewpoint School is required to plant a certain number of oak trees as part of their Condition of Approval for school modernization and expansion. This was a great opportunity both for Viewpoint School and the City of Calabasas to partner in planting the required number of oak trees off the school campus and within the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration site, where over 1,000 trees were needed for the restoration project.

Viewpoint School was required to plant one hundred and twenty (120) 24" oak trees and two thousand (2,000) five gallon oak trees (Attachment 2). After consulting with certified arborists, it was determined that the survival rate of 5 gallon and 24" oak trees are less than the 15 gallon oak trees. Therefore, it was determined that the equivalent number of 15 gallon oak trees meeting the above quantities is approximately 1,350.

Based on the above finding, City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 20, 2017 for planting 1,350 oak trees in multiple phases with 2 years of care and maintenance. City issued an addendum issued on April 6, 2017 responding to questions received from potential proposers.

The following companies responded to the RFP on April 10, 2017:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a) Nature Image, Inc.: | \$617,843 |
| b) B&B Nurseries, Inc. (dba, The Landscape Center): | \$525,500 |
| c) International Environmental Corporation: | \$494,292 |
| d) Venco Western, Inc.: | \$411,411 |

After careful review and evaluation, the lowest proposer was selected to perform the tasks outlined in the RFP. The difference between the school contribution and the actual cost is due to prevailing wages that City of Calabasas has to comply with. The difference will be covered by other funding sources.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Current project cost estimate is \$3M. City staff have pursued various funding sources and have already secured the following:

- a) \$676,735 funded under Urban Stream Restoration Program administered by California Department of Water Resources,
- b) \$645,200 funded under Proposition 84 – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan,
- c) \$980,500 funded through Proposition 84 administered by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and
- d) \$495,000 from River Parkway Grant administered by the California Natural Resources Agency.
- e) \$185,029 contribution from Viewpoint School, already deposited into City's Oak Tree Mitigation Fund.

Funding for this contract will be provided from two separate accounts: \$185,029 from City's Oak Tree Mitigation fund, \$226,382 will be proportionally distributed from the four grant funding listed above.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council approve a professional services agreement with Venco Western, Inc. in the amount of \$411,411.00 added to the existing contract with Venco Western, Inc. in the amount of \$643,660.00, and authorize the expenditure of \$185,029.00 from the Oak Tree Mitigation Fund (Account No. 653215815-10).

ATTACHMENT:

- 1. Professional Services Agreement with Venco Western, Inc.
- 2. Viewpoint School Modernization Project and Oak Tree Mitigation Measures