



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 14, 2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

**FROM: ROBERT YALDA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, P.E., T.E. / CITY ENGINEER
HEATHER MELTON, LANDSCAPE DISTRICT MAINTENANCE MANAGER**

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD A FOUR (4) YEAR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO ABSOLUTE TREE & BRUSH FOR ANNUAL WEED ABATEMENT/FUEL REDUCTION MAINTENANCE FOR FIRE SAFETY WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT (LMD), LANDSCAPE LIGHTING ACT DISTRICTS (LLAD'S), CITY OF CALABASAS PARCELS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE WITHIN THE CITY OF CALABASAS IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,105,100.00 PLUS ANNUAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) INCREASES.

**MEETING
DATE: JANUARY 26, 2022**

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to approve a four (4) year professional services agreement (PSA) to Absolute Tree & Brush for Annual Weed Abatement / Fuel Reduction Maintenance for Fire Safety within the Landscape Maintenance District (LMD), Landscape Lighting Act Districts (LLAD's), City of Calabasas Parcels, Parks and Open Space within The City of Calabasas in the Amount Not to Exceed \$2,105,100.00 Plus Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increases.

BACKGROUND:

The City’s prior weed abatement agreement was for five (5) years and currently expired on February 7th 2022; this agreement was completed.

Prior to the expiration of the agreement. Many of the Homeowner Associations as well as residence reached out to the City to see what could be done to keep the current services. Therefore, in November 2021 a meeting with the contractor Mr. Robert ‘Shane’ Gazan, owner (Absolute Tree & Brush) occurred. During the meeting he expressed how grateful he is to work for the residence of Calabasas and the City. Mr. Gazan was then asked if he could continue service at the existing rate with only the possibility of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. Mr. Gazan requested two days so he could look at his books and if we could then meet via zoom meeting. Two days later during the meeting Mr. Gazan stated after his review he would agree to continue at the existing pricing for another four (4) years with only the possibility of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

I then reached out to several Homeowner Association Boards and Property Mangers to share the information they had been waiting on. The response I received was one of relief that the City was working on an agreement with their support to renew the agreement with Absolute Tree & Brush at the current pricing. During these conversations I also requested letters of support which are included from the following Homeowner Associations: Bellagio HOA, Clairidge HOA, Calabasas Country Estates HOA, Calabasas Park (CPHA), Calabasas Hills & Estates HOA, Calabasas Park Estates HOA, Mont Calabasas HOA, and The Oaks Estates.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The City of Calabasas is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). Currently the County of Los Angeles’ fire code requires clearing weeds, grasses and brush and dead plant material to two hundred feet (200 ft.) from structure(s). The City of Calabasas Landscape Maintenance Division is responsible for the annual weed abatement / brush clearance of certain designated public roadways, common open space areas, City parcels, and designated common areas located within Landscape Maintenance District 22 (LMD 22) and Landscape Lighting Act Districts 22, 24, 27, and 32 (LLAD 22, 24, 27, & 32).

At this time The City of Calabasas is responsible to abate approximately 408.5 acres or 17,794,260 square feet which is about 370 football fields. Listed below is a breakdown for you to review:

- City Open Parcels: 65 acres
- City Parks: 33 acres
- LMD 22: 2 acres

LLAD 22: 282 acres
LLAD 24: 8 acres
LLAD 27: 18 acres
LLAD 32: .5 acres

Previously the City Attorney had determined it appropriate to classify the annual weed abatement/fuel reduction maintenance work, not as a capital improvement project. Therefore, this maintenance work does not require a public bid process.

Absolute Tree & Brush has been the City's weed abatement contractor in the past and has an excellent work and safety record. The contractor has a positive and productive relationship with the City staff, County of Los Angeles Fire Department Personnel, County of Los Angeles Weed Abatement Inspectors, and members of the community. Many appreciate his and his staff's continuing interest in the safety of The City of Calabasas and its residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Budgeted monies from the following funds will be utilized for this work.

Fund 10: Division 321: General Landscape Maintenance
Fund 21: Division 326: LMD 22: Common Benefit Areas
Fund 22: Division 322: LLAD 22: Landscape Maintenance District 22
Fund 24: Division 324: LLAD 24: Landscape Maintenance District 24
Fund 27: Division 324: LLAD 27: Landscape Maintenance District 27
Fund 32: Division 325: LLAD 32: Landscape Maintenance District 32

REQUESTED ACTION:

Recommendation to approve a four (4) year professional services agreement (PSA) to Absolute Tree & Brush for Annual Weed Abatement / Fuel Reduction Maintenance for Fire Safety within the Landscape Maintenance District (LMD), Landscape Lighting Act Districts (LLAD's), City of Calabasas Parcels, Parks and Open Space within The City of Calabasas in the Amount Not to Exceed \$2,105,100.00 Plus Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increases.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Letters from Homeowner Associations
ATTACHMENT B: Weed Abatement / Fuel Reduction Map
ATTACHMENT C: Letter from Absolute Tree & Brush
ATTACHMENT D: Professional Services Agreement