



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: September 4, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution awarding a contract to A Plus Tree, Inc. for arborist evaluation and remediation work due to Woolsey Fire damage at Ramirez Canyon Park, City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution awarding a contract to A Plus Tree, Inc. for arborist evaluation and remediation work due to Woolsey Fire damage at Ramirez Canyon Park, City of Malibu, in the amount of \$35,965.

Background: The Woolsey Fire of November 2018 burned through Ramirez Canyon Park. Staff have been displaced since that time while services are reestablished and the property is made safe for occupancy, including all portions of the property that staff is required to access. In order for the site to reopen as a functioning agency office, all trees adjacent or hanging over existing structures, walkways, driveways, parking areas, etc. must be evaluated by an arborist. Recommendations and implementation for trimming, and in the most severe cases, removal, must be made by a licensed arborist to comply with FEMA requirements and best practices.

The 43 affected trees include both non-native and native species. Twenty-four trees are recommended for removal, and nineteen for corrective pruning. The recommended treatment for individual trees may change once the arborist crews begin work, if more or less extensive damage is identified. Staff will coordinate with Malibu's City Biologist as required for the larger native trees, and that process may also result in alterations to the recommended treatment for specific trees. Work will be overseen by MRCA staff arborists and biologists.

Section 4.1 of the MRCA's Procurement Policy states that all purchases of \$25,000 or more shall be made through a competitive bid process and awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The project was put out for public bid on August 9, 2019. On August 15, 2019 a mandatory bid walk was held on-site and was attended by six contractors. On August 26, 2019 one bid was received from a

contractor, A Plus Tree, Inc. The bid package from A Plus Tree, Inc. is attached. Staff reviewed the bid and found A Plus Tree, Inc. to be the lowest responsive, responsible bidder in accordance with Public Contract Code section 20815 *et seq.* The work is anticipated to be completed during September 2019.

Consideration: The bid from A Plus Tree, Inc. is \$35,965.

Fiscal Impact: The arborist evaluation and remediation work related to the Woolsey Fire is eligible for FEMA and CAL-OES reimbursement. The MRCA's local share match of 6.25% is eligible for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's General Fund grant for Woolsey Fire Recovery and Restoration. The expense was anticipated in the 2019-20 MRCA budget.

Procurement Details: The subject contract is anticipated to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement under the disaster declaration for the California November 2018 Wildfires, DR-4077. FEMA procedures require written documentation. The following information is provided for that purpose.

- 1) *Reason for procurement method:* A competitive bid process is required by MRCA's Procurement Policy and California's Public Contract Code, which states that all purchases of \$25,000 or more shall be made through a competitive bid process and awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
- 2) *Type of contract:* The contract type is fixed fee, based on the competitive bid process.
- 3) *Contractor selection:* A Plus Tree, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
- 4) *Basis for contract price:* The bid from A Plus Tree, Inc. was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
- 5) *Bid solicitation process:* The bid was publicly advertised in the *Los Angeles Daily News* two weeks before the bid opening date. The ad generated seven (7) interested companies, and six (6) companies appeared for the mandatory bid walk. However only one company submitted a bid. Historically, staff have noticed that there is a very limited pool of qualified contractors who are willing to be paid in arrears, carry the necessary licensing and insurance, and will travel to Ramirez Canyon.