

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 9, 2021

**TO:** MELISSA PERALES, Purchasing Manager Finance Department

**FROM:** THOMAS C. ESQUEDA, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS OF WEST COAST ARBORIST, INC., TO COMPLETE THE REMAINING TREE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

Fresno Municipal Code Section 4-107(h) states the City of Fresno (City) shall follow an objective process in the selection of consultants “unless the City Manager determines in writing that emergency or exigent circumstances exist, or the consultant is uniquely qualified.” The City is recommending approval of a contract with West Coast Arborist, Inc. (WCA), for the completion of the tree inventory data collection. The proposed contract is for \$120,000 to complete the remaining Tree Inventory Data Collection. The scope of West Coast Arborists, Inc., services under this contract includes collecting GIS data points for the remaining trees. Inventory data includes facts about each tree such as health, size, age, and maintenance history. The Cal-Fire grant was able to fund approximately 80% of the Citywide tree inventory and the Public Works Department has identified local funding available to complete the remaining 20% of the work. The City has obtained a second grant for an urban forest management plan, which further requires that the tree inventory be complete by June 30, 2021.

WCA is supported by the Laborer’s International Union of North America (LIUNA) with over 1,000 employees and with many International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified workers including Certified Arborist, Certified Tree Worker, Utility Specialist, Municipal Specialist, and Master Arborist. WCA has been a reliable partner of the City of Fresno for the last several years, providing services related to geobase tree trimming in neighborhoods and tree services in City parks. Furthermore, as part of a Cal-Fire grant awarded to the City, WCA developed a GIS database for the tree inventory and condition assessment. No other local arborist has the software and GIS analytical approach to complete the assessment of the remaining trees within the City of Fresno and incorporate the results into the same database by the deadline of June 30, 2021.

For all the reasons above, I find that WCA is uniquely qualified to perform the work required. I also find that there are exigent circumstances in the selection and contracting for these services. The completion of the tree inventory is proceeding quickly to meet funding deadlines, and the benefits of the consultation services under this contract will be most valuable the sooner the work begins. A full procurement process could push the

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results of this work out to a time when the information generated would have little or no impact on decisions about the remaining tree inventory.

Approved By:



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THOMAS C. ESQUEDA

City Manager