



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **BRC-1**

May 26, 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – INFORMATIONAL UPDATE 1 ON-CALL TREE TRIMMING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES PROGRAM (BRC0000208)

Reminder: The deadline to submit proposals is Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. Proposals will only be accepted electronically via www.bidexpress.com, a secure online bidding service website.

All addenda and Informational Updates will also be posted electronically at <http://pw.lacounty.gov/brcd/servicecontracts/>. Please check the website frequently for any further addenda or informational updates, which may be released for this solicitation.

Please take note of the following answers in response to the request for information and clarification and other questions submitted by Proposers for the On-Call Tree Trimming and Maintenance Services Program (BRC0000208). Questions presented in this Informational Update represent the questions asked by the Proposers in the form and context submitted.

Questions and Answers to On-Call Tree Trimming and Maintenance Services Program (BRC0000208)

- 1. Question:** Will the contracts from this RFP be used to perform work previously solicited through Job Order Contracting?

Response: Yes. The resulting contracts from this solicitation will be used to request routine tree maintenance in addition to miscellaneous on-call tree related tasks. Please refer to the RFP document, Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section F, Work Description.

- 2. Question:** How soon will contract go into effect?

Response: The new contracts are estimated to commence in January 2022.

- 3. Question:** Does each Maintenance District have a budgeted amount?

Response: No. The total annual Program amount of \$15 million is shared by all five Maintenance Districts (MDs).

4. **Question:** Will you be providing parking to whom the contract is awarded to?

Response: No. Also, the County will not provide storage facilities and will not provide utilities as stated in the RFP document, Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Sections H and I, respectively.

5. **Question:** Are there CPI increases annually?

Response: Yes, when applicable and if requested by the contractor. Please note, this information is provided in the RFP document, Sample Agreement, tenth paragraph.

6. **Question:** Can you please share the percentage breakdown for the main work types in each Maintenance District?

Response: Public Works anticipates the following breakdown by percentage for primary types of work requested:

Tree Trimming: 65 percent
Tree Removals: 20 percent
Tree Planting: 10 percent
Miscellaneous/Other tasks: 5 percent

Please note, type of work requested may vary from one MD to another and all approximations of work to be performed are only estimates.

7. **Question:** Please clarify which of LSBE, CBE or SBE is more beneficial for bidding?

Response: The County has three preference programs which are for Local Small Business Enterprise (LSBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Social Enterprise (SE). These preference programs provide a 15 percent or \$150,000 price preference for the purposes of proposal scoring in the price criteria. Other certifications such as CBE or SBE do not receive any advantage in proposal scoring. Please review RFP, Section 1, L. County's Preference Programs.

8. **Question:** Is it too late to register as LSBE, CBE or SBE?

Response: As stated in the conference, proposer must be certified LSBE, DVBE, or SE at the time of proposal submission in order to receive the preference for the purposes of proposal scoring. To apply for certification, proposers should contact the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at <http://dcba.lacounty.gov>. Please review RFP, Section 1, L. County's Preference Programs.

9. **Question:** Will a yard be provided to the vendor?

Response: Please see response to Question 4.

10. Question: Will all monies awarded be used during the contract period?

Response: The contracts are on-call in nature, therefore there is no guarantee that all the program's budget will be used. Please review Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section D, Request of Work from Contractor.

11. Question: Noticed that there is no longer a line item for Arborist Services/Tree Evaluation. Will that no longer be requested?

Response: This service is included in the Schedule of Prices, Form PW-2 under Service 9 – Non-Emergency Tree Service, Categories 23 through 27.

12. Question: What is the name of the current contractors, per Districts 1-5?

Response: The current Program is divided into four MDs and all contractors are ranked in the following order per MD:

MD 1: Golden West Arbor Services, Inc. West Coast Arborists, Inc. Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.	MD 3: West Coast Arborists, Inc. International Environmental Corp. Golden West Arbor Services, Inc. Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.
MD 4: West Coast Arborists, Inc. Golden West Arbor Services, Inc. United Pacific Services, Inc. Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.	MD 5: West Coast Arborists, Inc. United Pacific Services, Inc. International Environmental Corp. Golden West Arbor Services, Inc. Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.

13. Question: Are there any changes in the scope of work from the last time it was out for bid? Per Districts 1-5?

Response: Yes. There are changes and variations from the previous Scope of Work to the present. It is the duty of the proposer to fully read and familiarize themselves with the work to be performed in the RFP document, Exhibit A, Scope of Work.

14. Question: How long has the current incumbent had the contract? Per Districts 1-5?

Response: Of the incumbent contractors, West Coast Arborists, Inc., Mariposa Landscapes, Inc., and United Pacific Services, Inc., have held tree trimming contracts with Public Works since 1997. Golden West Arbor Services, Inc., and International Environmental Corp. have held tree trimming contracts with Public Works since 2012.

15. Question: What is the monthly invoice for these contracts? Per Districts 1-5?

Response: Due to the on-call nature and the variations of the work to be performed by each contractor among MDs, we are unable to approximate an amount for monthly invoices for the contracts resulting from this RFP. However, each MD will conduct routine tree maintenance operations annually between the months of September through March on a portion of their tree inventory as approximated in the RFP document, Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section J, Assignment of Work, Item 4.

16. Question: Who pays for the irrigation parts?

Response: Contractor will provide at their own expense any and all repairs to irrigation components damaged by the contractor's operations, as stated in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, under Section R, Responsibilities of the Contractor.

17. Question: What is the tree maintenance requirements?

Response: All requirements and specifications associated with tree work and maintenance are as described in the RFP document, Exhibit A, Scope of Work and Exhibits G through R as defined.

18. Question: Is RoundUp okay to use?

Response: Pursuant to policies adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, use of herbicides shall be banned within the limits of work, including any temporary site secured by the contractor for its use during their performance of the contract, as stated in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section R, Special Safety Requirements, Item 6, Use of Herbicides. Please bid accordingly.

19. Question: Is storage provided on city property for contractor's equipment?

Response: Please see response to Question 4.

20. Question: Is there a mandated man/worker/crew count for this RFP?

Response: There is no mandatory number of crews, however, contractor and its subcontractor, if any, shall provide sufficient experienced personnel to perform assigned work, as stated in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section R, Responsibilities of the Contractor, Item 3, Maintenance Crews.

21. Question: Do you have an engineer's estimate?

Response: No. There is no engineer's estimate.

22. Question: Were these contracts separated last time they were up for bid?

Response: Yes. The previous RFP for tree trimming services divided the contracts into four separate MDs.

23. Question: Did the current contractor finish the full term of the contract?

Response: Current contracts are active and in good standing and are on their final optional term.

If you have any questions concerning the above information, please contact Messrs. Danny Medina at (626) 458-4080 or dmedina@pw.lacounty.gov or David Pang at (626) 458-7168 or dpang@pw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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We encourage you to follow us on Twitter @[LACoPublicWorks](https://twitter.com/LACoPublicWorks) for more information on Public Works and instant updates on contracting opportunities and solicitations.

Very truly yours,

MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Manovitz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOSE QUEVEDO
Assistant Deputy Director
Business Relations and Contracts Division

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bc: Road Maintenance (Daly w/o enc., Alfonso, Birdwell, Osmena)