APPROVE FINDINGS AND CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH WEST COAST ARBORISTS, INC. FOR TREE REMOVAL SERVICES (PROJECT NO. O&M 16-007)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve a motion authorizing the City Manager to:

1. Approve findings pursuant to Stockton Municipal Code (SMC) section 3.68.070 in support of an exception to the competitive bidding process.

2. Execute Contract Change Order No. 1 for $250,000 with West Coast Arborists, Inc. for Tree Removal Services (Project No. O&M 16-007).

It is further recommended that the motion authorize the City Manager to take appropriate and necessary actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this motion.

Summary

On February 23, 2016, by Motion No. 2016-02-23-1205, Council authorized the award of a Service Contract for $257,800 with West Coast Arborists, Inc. of Stockton, CA, to provide tree removal services throughout the City of Stockton.

On December 8, 2015, by Resolution No. 2015-12-08-1502, Council approved amendments to the Fiscal Year 2015-16 General Fund Budget. The budget amendments included the allocation of $250,000 of one-time General Funds for additional tree removal services.

The proposed Contract Change Order No. 1 with West Coast Arborists, Inc. (Attachment A) utilizes the additional funding and increases the Service Contract by $250,000 to a total value to $507,800. This action will allow for removal of the entire backlog of trees on the current removal list.

DISCUSSION

Background

The inventoried count of City maintained trees is 98,000. The majority are in need of trimming and routine maintenance. Many trees have reached the end of their useful life or have succumbed to disease or pest infestation due to the lack of scheduled maintenance and now require removal. Contracted services are utilized to remove large trees that are in the worst condition.

On February 23, 2016, by Motion 2016-02-23-1205, Council authorized the award of a Service Contract for $257,800 to West Coast Arborists, Inc. This award allowed for the removal of 346 of the
approximately 700 trees currently in need of removal.

Present Situation

On December 8, 2015, by Resolution No. 2015-12-08-1502, Council approved amendments to the Fiscal Year 2015-16 General Fund Budget. The budget amendments included the transfer of $250,000 of one-time General Funds to the Maintenance and Repair Services account for tree removal services.

As the bids for Project No. O&M 16-007 had already been received prior to December 8, 2015, the contract as awarded does not include the additional funds. However, the contract is valid for calendar year 2016, and additional units can be added by contract change order at competitively bid unit rates. Staff recommends that Contract Change Order No. 1 for $250,000 be approved to increase the Service Contract to a total value to $507,800 to take advantage of the favorable unit costs obtained through the prior competitive bid. (Attachment A).

In addition, pursuant to SMC section 3.68.070, Council may approve findings which support an exception to the competitive bidding process. These findings include:

a. Utilizing the contract change order process, instead of bidding the additional work, allows the City to take advantage of the favorable unit costs available from the current, competitively bid project.

b. Utilizing the contract change order process is more efficient than bidding the project, because it eliminates advertising and administrative costs associated with issuing and awarding a new contract.

c. Utilizing the contract change order process is more efficient than bidding the project, because the project inspection, payment, and general administrative tasks are combined under one contract with one contractor.

Approval of Contract Change Order No. 1 will allow for removal of approximately 350 additional trees, which staff estimates will eliminate the backlog on the City’s current tree removal list.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

On December 8, 2015, Resolution No. 2015-12-08-1502 authorized appropriating $250,000 from the General Fund to the Street Trees, General Fund, Maintenance and Repair Services account (010-3071) to fund the proposed Contract Change Order No. 1.

Attachment A - Contract Change Order No. 1 with West Coast Arborists, Inc.