

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: May 2, 2011
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Contract for services for Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan update

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Cheryl Miller and Associates for updating the long-term vegetation management plan for Albany Hill.

BACKGROUND

The 1991 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan was developed 20 years ago and although many of the elements in the plan are still valid and useful today, in September 2010 staff recommended updating at least portions of the plan to better direct staff in prioritizing resources and to answer the question, “What does the community want Albany Hill to look like in 20 years.”

Vegetation/fuel management, land acquisition, access, and the vast number of Eucalyptus trees are the areas that need to be addressed and updated.

Council approved up to \$50,000 to update the from Landscape & Lighting District Measure R funds so that a consultant(s) could be hired to work with the community, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and staff to update the Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan.

At the March 2011 meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and edited the Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit consultants to assist in developing and writing the vegetation management portion of the updated Plan. The deadline for submissions was April 8, 2011. Staff sent the RFP to five potential candidates/agencies. Two RPF’s were returned. One of the two returned submitted a proposal that exceeded the approved budget.

DISCUSSION

The 1991 Plan is essentially broken into two parts, vegetation management and access/circulation. The consultant to be hired by the City was solicited to assist in the vegetation management portion of the plan with an emphasis on fire prevention. As for the access/circulation portion of the plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission will take on the role of consultant and staff will write the updated plan per the Commissions recommendations.

Of the two submittals for the vegetation management portion of the plan, staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission are recommending Cheryl Miller and Associates. Attached please find Cheryl Miller's submission. Ms. Miller and her team have extensive experience in all areas for which the City needs. Although the City did not receive several applicants from which to choose, Cheryl Miller and her team are very well respected in the field and appear to be an excellent fit for Albany.

The vegetation on Albany Hill has matured over the years and fuel management is a top priority. Ms. Miller and her team have many years of firsthand experience in developing and implementing fuel management plans while safeguarding natural and cultural resources. Additionally, since the last plan in 1991, the City has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy. Ms. Miller and her team are knowledgeable and committed to making recommendations for non-chemical approaches to vegetation management.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The recommended consultant will assist in writing a vegetation management plan which will give the City a long-term plan that will emphasize fire prevention, removal of invasive/non-native plants, and protection of sensitive habitat.

FISCAL IMPACT

City Council approved up to \$50,000 for the updated plan. The recommended consultant submitted a proposal for \$49,950 which includes a \$2,250 contingency. Funds from Measure R Open Space were approved for the master plan update.

Attachment

Proposal for development of an Albany Hill Vegetation Management Plan