



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

Agenda Date: September 17, 2018
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Contract Change Order to Contract C18-9 - 2018 Albany Hill
Eucalyptus Tree Removal

REPORT BY: John Hawkrige Urban Forester
Mark Hurley, Public Works Director

SUMMARY

The issue before Council is approval of a change order in the amount of \$10,150 to Contract C18-9. In January 2018 the Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-13 awarding Contract No. C18-9 to Professional Tree Care Company in the amount of \$39,000 to remove potentially hazardous trees from Albany Hill as described in the Albany Hill Master Vegetation Management Plan. At the request of Albany Fire Department, staff expanded Professional Tree Care's scope to include additional debris removal to reduce the fire load on Albany Hill. The new contract value is \$49,150.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2018-116 authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 1 to Contract C18-9 in the amount of \$10,150 using previously appropriated funds in the FY 18/19 Public Works operating budget.

BACKGROUND

Eucalyptus globulus is by far the most prominent tree species on Albany Hill. The trees have been problematic in the propensity to fail completely during winter storms, as well as 'sudden limb drop' during summer months.

The Detailed Implementation Plan on page 51 of the Albany Hill Master Vegetation Management Plan includes scaled risk assessment of trees that threaten public safety/property and removal of hazardous trees. Both of these are designated as high priority and to be done annually.

Page 1 from the Albany Hill Master Vegetation Management Plan Executive Summary states:

- Manage the Hilltop Eucalyptus forest to slowly remove eucalyptus as the trees age and decline resulting in the dominance of the existing understory vegetation (grassland, toyon, oak, north coastal scrub.) This will result in a slow conversion from eucalyptus as the

trees are removed when needed, incorporating actions to reduce risk of fire and protection of native species.

- Manage the Eucalyptus Oak Woodland area and Grassland Oak Woodland area to slowly remove eucalyptus allowing existing understory vegetation to dominate. Protect oak woodland on north and grass oak woodland on south from being shaded-out by eucalyptus. This provides for safer vegetation types from a fire protection perspective and more diverse habitat for wildlife.

The eucalyptus removal plan was brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 14, 2017 as an ‘informational only’ discussion item. The Commission agrees with the need for this work.

DISCUSSION

Staff initially identified approximately 100 trees (Blue Gum Eucalyptus) of concern on Albany Hill along Jackson and Taft Streets. Of this list, 45 trees were identified as priority trees due to their proximity to streets, buildings and powerlines.

Staff solicited bids from qualified tree contractors to remove these trees. The City received two bids at \$159,500 and \$110,000, which significantly exceeded the budgeted amount for this task. This work is being funded through Measure R maintenance funding and Staff has allocated \$40,000 for tree removals in FY2018. This limit was based on balancing Measure R maintenance funding across all the maintenance activities identified in the Albany Hill Master Plan.

In response to the bids, staff solicited time and materials pricing from the two contractors based on a standard crew size (five-person crew, crane, whole tree chipper, ten wheel trucks, disposal of waste and black tarping of stumps). Both contractors submitted a daily rate of \$6,000. The City selected Professional Tree Care based on their pricing and ability to perform (i.e. has available equipment and staffing to complete the work). The anticipation is that City Staff will direct the contractor to removal the most critical of the priority trees, approximately 15-20 trees.

The plan calls for annual tree removals to remove trees potentially hazardous trees and to remove aging eucalyptus trees to allow native species to repopulate Albany Hill. The amount of trees removed in any one year will be based on priority and budget availability.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Blue Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is a problematic tree species as described by the California Invasive Plant Council: “...biological diversity is lost due to displacement of native plant communities and corresponding wildlife habitat. ...Understory establishment is inhibited by the production of allelopathic chemicals and by the physical barrier formed by high volumes of forest debris consisting of bark strips, limbs, and branches. The fuel

complex formed by this debris is extremely flammable, and under severe weather conditions could produce drifting burning material with the potential to ignite numerous spot fires. Because stringy bark is carried away while burning, eucalyptus forests are considered the worst in the world for spreading spot fires. The Oakland hills firestorm was both intense and difficult to control because of the many stands of eucalyptus. Individual trees growing near structures or in public use areas are hazardous because of the potential for branch failure. Stature and growth form are distinctive and unlike native tree species, which compromises the visual quality of natural landscapes.”

Removal of these trees not only reduces the risk of hazard to the public, but also opens space for existing more desirable species to grow and flourish and create a more sustainable lush canopy providing food and shelter for many species of birds, animals and insects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed contract order change for this contract is in the amount of \$10,150. The source of funding is Measure R and is included in the FY18/19 Public Works operating budget.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2018-116
2. Change Order 01 for Contract C18-9

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RESOLUTION NO. 2018-116

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL APPROVING
CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO CONTRACT C18-9**

WHEREAS, eucalyptus and hazardous tree removal is called for in the Albany Hill Master Vegetation Management Plan which is funded by Measure R; and

WHEREAS, eucalyptus globulus is by far the most prominent tree species on Albany Hill and has been problematic in the propensity to fail completely during winter storms as well as ‘sudden limb drop’ during summer months; and

WHEREAS, in January 2018 the Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-13 awarding Contract No. C18-9 to Professional Tree Care Company in the amount of \$39,000 to remove potentially hazardous trees from Albany Hill; and

WHEREAS, Professional Tree Care’s scope was expanded to include additional debris removal at an additional cost of \$10,150.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council hereby authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 1 to Contract C18-9 in the amount of \$10,150 using previously appropriated funds in the FY 18/19 Public Works operating budget.

PEGGY MCQUAID, MAYOR

CHANGE ORDER 01

Albany Hill Eucalyptus Tree Removal Contract C18-9

Purchase Order No. 18210093
Use this number on invoices, shipping
notices, packages and correspondence.

CONTRACTOR NAME: The Professional Tree Care Co.
ADDRESS: 2823 8th Street, Berkeley, CA 94710
PHONE/FAX/WEBSITE: (510) 549-3954 / Fax (510) 549-3965
CONTACT NAME/TITLE: Charles Slesinger
CONTACT CELL PHONE/EMAIL: 415-265-0028 / charles@professionaltreecare.com
DESCRIPTION/LOCATION OF WORK: Albany Hill along Taft and Jackson streets
ORIGINAL PURCHASE ORDER PRICE: \$39,000
ORIGINAL TIME FOR COMPLETION OF WORK:
DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE: BID QUANTITIES GREATER THAN CONTRACT AMOUNT

AMOUNT ADDED TO PURCHASE ORDER PRICE: \$10,150

NEW PURCHASE ORDER PRICE: \$49,150

CHANGE TO TIME FOR COMPLETION: none

NEW TIME FOR COMPLETION: March 23, 2018

Authorized by City:

[Name/Title]

Nicole Almaguer, City Manager

Date: _____

Acknowledged and agreed:



[Name]

Contractor

Charles Slesinger

CHANGE ORDER
Contract C18-9