



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 30, 2013

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement For Evaluation Of Wildland Fire Evacuation Procedures

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Fire Chief to execute a standard City Professional Services Agreement with Dudek, in a form of agreement acceptable to the City Attorney, in the amount of \$61,780 for technical and engineering services to evaluate and provide recommendations to improve wildland fire evacuation procedures and authorize the Fire Chief to approve expenditures of up to \$15,220 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

Background

In 2004 the City of Santa Barbara adopted the City Wildland Fire Plan. The Plan includes evacuation procedures that identify public evacuation routes, fire resource ingress/egress routes, and traffic control points to facilitate evacuations. Evacuation procedures were updated in 2010 following lessons learned from the 2008 Tea Fire and the 2009 Jesusita Fire.

Wildfire evacuation has evolved since completion of the 2004 Plan. Research on wildfire evacuation has recognized the interrelationship that multiple components have on the ability to successfully facilitate evacuation. The City has a significant history of wildland fire with catastrophic results, along with an existing infrastructure system that challenges the City's ability to facilitate evacuation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The work consists of coordinating with the Fire Department and Public Works Department, Transportation and Engineering Divisions to provide technical and engineering services to evaluate the City's existing wildland fire evacuation procedures. The goal is to

provide recommendations to improve evacuation based on fire behavior modeling, transportation engineering principles and human behavioral response.

The consultant will provide an evaluation of the City Fire Department's wildfire evacuation procedures, develop evacuation trigger points, identify specific roads that may not meet Fire Department Access Standards and develop feasible mitigations and/or appropriate tools that can increase evacuation flow and reduce fire risk. The consultant will coordinate with the Fire Department and Public Works, Transportation Division to evaluate evacuation procedures.

In addition, the consultant will identify potential fire fighting safety zones and escape routes in the City high fire hazard area and develop appropriate tools and improvements to incorporate into the City's land development process.

SELECTION PROCESS

Request for Proposals (RFP) were sent to nine consultants. A total of three proposals were received for the subject work. The RFP included a rating scale that was used to evaluate the three proposals. Staff evaluated each proposal based on the proposal responsiveness to the RFP and scope of work; project manager and team qualifications; local knowledge and experience; budget and schedule. Dudek rated the highest and was selected as the most qualified candidate for the project.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total project cost is \$77,000. The project is funded through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant Program, Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI) grant that was awarded to the City Community Development, Public Works and Fire Department for the completion of the Safety Element and other technical studies. The grant funds have already been appropriated, so no appropriations are needed with this action.

PREPARED BY: Joseph Poiré, Fire Marshal

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick McElroy, Fire Chief

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office