



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 13, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Streets Maintenance Practices Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a City Professional Services contract with LA Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$85,482 for the Evaluation of Streets Maintenance Practices, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$8,500 for extra services of LA Consulting, Inc., that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Department's Streets Section is responsible for most of the public infrastructure in the public right of way, including the maintenance of the streets, sidewalks, storm drains, the Laguna pump station, graffiti abatement, traffic signs and paint, and neighborhood cleanups. Alternative Transportation projects that help reduce the wear and tear on City streets are also partially funded out of the Streets Section. Capital Improvement Projects, focused on infrastructure preservation and renewal, are managed by the City's Engineering Division, as are traffic engineering and traffic signals. All of these functions are funded through dedicated revenue sources, including the Highway Users (Gas) Tax, the Measure A Tax, the Utility Users Tax, the Transportation Development Act funding, plus other minor revenue sources. Total funding for the Streets functions (exclusive of street sweeping) for Fiscal Year 2015 is projected to be \$14,578,716.

The street infrastructure condition in the City is declining. The City has a goal of having a Pavement Maintenance Index of 70 or better. Currently, the index is 64, and it is projected to continue to decline, based on the available funding for streets capital pavement maintenance projects. Additionally, there is a backlog of streets maintenance issues such as potholes and City street trees uplifting pavement and gutters.

Keeping up with the maintenance demands of the aging infrastructure is proving challenging, given the limited resources of the Streets Program. The proposed maintenance practice assessment will evaluate current maintenance practices and make recommendations to prioritize work and help focus on the most critical tasks, with an aim to preserving infrastructure and protecting public safety. The City of Santa Barbara's Public Works Department is evaluating its core services in order to establish the framework to meet future demands. Of particular interest are items such as best management practices, performance measures, and opportunities to maximize productivity.

A Request for Proposals was sent to qualified and experienced firms to conduct an evaluation of streets maintenance practices. LA Consulting, Inc. (LAC), was selected and staff negotiated a fair price. LAC is a qualified and experienced firm who has evaluated over 70 agencies. LAC specializes in infrastructure operations and maintenance consulting. The scope of work includes a review of all the City street functions, an evaluation of opportunities to streamline financial management for better budget planning and assessment of effectiveness, a review of maintenance management practices, and recommendations for steps the City can take to improve the efficiency and preserve the condition of its street infrastructure.

FUNDING

The following summarizes all estimated total Project costs:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST

Professional Services	\$85,482
Extra Services	\$8,500
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$93,982

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Streets budget to cover these costs.

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director/BB/mh

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office