



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 21, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Sole Source Agreement For Sanitary Sewer Chemical Root Control Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a Sole Source Maintenance Agreement with Duke's Root Control in the amount \$128,577.16 for sanitary sewer chemical root cleaning services, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$12,857.72 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Barbara owns and operates a 257-mile municipal wastewater collection system. Within this system, root intrusion from trees occasionally blocks sewer flows and causes sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). From 2008 through 2010, the City averaged approximately 40 SSOs per year, with the predominant cause being root intrusion. Since then, the number of SSOs has been decreasing; however, efforts to reduce SSOs continue to be a priority.

To better control root intrusion, the City initiated a pilot project in 2014, where nationally recognized and approved chemical herbicide products specifically designed for sanitary sewer mains were applied to City sewer mains with a history of root intrusion. Staff selected two different chemical herbicide products via a Request for Proposal process, thereby allowing staff to evaluate the effectiveness of each product in various locations throughout the City.

Staff selected Duke's Root Control (Duke's) and Pacific Sewer Maintenance (PSM) to apply their different products to approximately one mile of pipe throughout the City and assessed the potential negative effect of the chemical herbicide to nearby trees. After a three-month review period, no negative effects were found; therefore, Duke's and PSM applied their products to approximately 13 miles of sanitary sewer mains.

Staff has evaluated the effectiveness of the two different products and has determined that, while both products were successful in controlling root intrusion, Duke's product was more favorable because of the ease of scheduling the work and product warranty. Duke's product does not require pre-cleaning prior to treatment, whereas PSM's product requires treatment to take place within a six-week to three-month cleaning window. In addition, PSM's product warranty is voided if a sewer main is hydro-jetted after the product is applied, whereas, Duke's product does not have such a stipulation.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of Duke's applying chemical herbicide to approximately 20 miles of predominately six-inch and eight-inch diameter sewer mains with a history of root intrusion in various locations throughout the City.

Staff recommends a sole source maintenance agreement with Duke's because of their ease of scheduling, no strict pre-cleaning periods, and favorable warranty. Duke's provided competitive pricing similar to last year, and were proven to be successful and efficient in the 2014 pilot project.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

This project is funded by the Wastewater Fund, and there are sufficient appropriated funds in the Wastewater Fund to cover the cost of this project. The following summarizes project costs:

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST

Duke's Agreement (including extra services)	\$141,434.88
Project Management (by City Staff)	\$20,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$161,434.88

At its meeting on July 14, 2015, the Water Commission voted in support of staff recommendations.

PREPARED BY: Linda Sumansky, Principal Civil Engineer/LA/KT/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office