



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 9, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Contract For Streets Maintenance Planning Support Services

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a City Professional Services contract in the amount of \$100,326 with LA Consulting, Inc., for Streets Maintenance Planning Support Services, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$10,033 for extra services of LA Consulting, Inc., that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

The Streets Section within the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department is responsible for most of the public infrastructure in the public right-of-way, including the maintenance of streets, sidewalks, storm drains, the Laguna pump station, graffiti abatement, traffic signs, and painting of street markings and alternative transportation projects. Alternatively, capital improvement projects, focused on infrastructure preservation and renewal, are managed by the Public Works' 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, Measure A Sales Taxes, Utility Users Taxes, Transportation Development Act funding, and other minor revenue sources. Total funding for the City Streets Programs (exclusive of street sweeping) for Fiscal Year 2016 is approximately \$13,461,000.

The street infrastructure condition in the City is declining. The City has a goal of having a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 70 or better. Currently, the index is 63, and is projected to continue to decline based on the current available funding levels for streets capital pavement maintenance projects. Additionally, there is a backlog of street maintenance issues such as potholes and City street trees uplifting pavement, sidewalks and gutters.

Management review of the Streets Section's maintenance activities resulted in a decision to hire a consultant to study existing street maintenance practices. In early 2015, 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 in 2015 through a competitive process, and staff negotiated a fair price. LAC is a qualified and experienced firm who has evaluated over 70 public agencies. LAC specializes in infrastructure operations and maintenance consulting. LAC performed an assessment of streets operations and maintenance activities and produced a report documenting its assessment in late 2015. The report includes recommendations for the City to implement in order to improve service levels and reduce costs.

The LAC Report recommendations are grouped into four key management principles: planning, organizing, directing, and controlling. Major improvement is needed in activities related to all four principles, with most improvement needed in the organizing management principle. Organizing principle-related activities such as determining resource requirements, work load distribution, and existing workload reviews via a sectional work calendar process, have not been functional. Important planning functions such as determining annual work program activities and related levels of effort required for these activities have not been properly managed. Controlling functions involved with reviewing the Streets Section's field performance, taking final management action to resolve field activity under-performance, and providing systematic feedback to improve subsequent Streets Section planning activities, are lacking.

These LAC Report recommendations now must be addressed. While City staff can independently implement the LAC Report's recommendations, significant improvement in this implementation can be made by contracting with LAC to participate in these organizational change-related activities. In doing so, the Street Section's activities will become more effective in a shorter timeframe and will result in additional cost savings and operational efficiencies to the City in Fiscal Year 2017.

The proposed professional service agreement will direct LAC to continue its work with the Streets Section. LAC will focus upon activities which support implementation of its initial contract's recommendations. It will update current street maintenance planning practices that will result in City staff's field work productivity improvements. Because these improvements are designed to result in future fiscal savings, use of the Streets Section salary savings for this contract provide a sound investment for the future.

**FUNDING:**

The following summarizes all estimated total Project costs:

**ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST**

Professional Services	\$100,326
Extra Services	\$10,033
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$110,359</b>

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Streets Capital Fund from salary savings to cover these costs.

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Toth, Transportation Manager/mj

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office