



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 6, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Agreement For Sanitary Sewer Chemical Root Control Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find that, pursuant to Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(L), it is in the best interest of the City to authorize the Public Works Director to execute an agreement with Duke's Root Control, Inc., in the amount \$138,477.85 for sanitary sewer chemical root cleaning services, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$13,847.00 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 flow 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 2010, the number of SSOs has been decreasing, and efforts to reduce SSOs continue to be a priority.

In order 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, Inc., (Duke's) and Pacific Sewer Maintenance (PSM) to apply their different chemical herbicide products to approximately one mile of pipe throughout the City and assessed the potential for negative effects of the chemical herbicide on nearby trees. After a 3-month review period, no negative effects were

found; therefore, Duke's and PSM applied their chemical herbicide to approximately 13 miles of sanitary sewer mains.

Staff has evaluated the effectiveness of the two different chemical herbicide products and has determined that, while both products were successful in controlling root intrusion, Duke's was favorable because they provided easier scheduling and better product warranty. Duke's chemical herbicide does not require pre-cleaning prior to treatment, whereas PSM requires that treatment take place within a 6-week to 3-month cleaning window. PSM's warranty is voided if a sewer main is hydro-jetted after chemical herbicides are applied, and Duke's does not have that stipulation.

A professional service agreement was approved by Council on July 21, 2015, for Duke's to apply chemical herbicide to approximately 20 miles of sewer mains with a history of root intrusion in various locations throughout the City in the fall of 2015.

Current Project Description

The work consists of applying chemical herbicide to approximately 21 miles of predominately 6-inch and 8-inch sewer mains. The original 13 miles of sewer pipes that were treated in 2014 will be re-treated, and eight new miles of sewer mains with a history of root intrusion in various locations throughout the City will receive the chemical herbicide treatment.

Staff recommends that it is in the best interest of the City to enter into a contract with Duke's because they are the only supplier of the particular herbicide product and because of their ease of scheduling without strict pre-cleaning windows and favorable warranty. Duke's provided competitive pricing, similar to last year, and were proven to be successful and efficient in the 2014 and 2015 projects.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

This project is funded by the Wastewater Fund and there are sufficient appropriated monies in the fund to cover the cost of this project.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Arroyo, Wastewater System Manager/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office