



## **Engineering Services Committee Meeting**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

Hurricane Helene Debris Removal Services –

Supplemental Funding – Supplement 4

RFP 24-915

File Reference: 25-014(A)

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<b>Department:</b>	Engineering & Environmental Services
<b>Presenter:</b>	Dr. Hameed Malik, Director
<b>Caption:</b>	Approve supplement funding (supplement 4) in amount not to exceed \$15.0 million for Hurricane Helene Debris Removal services with Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. Also approve use of General Fund fund-balance to fund these services. AE/ 24-915
<b>Background:</b>	Hurricane Helene passed through Augusta-Richmond (ARC) the last week of September (September 26-27, 2024). The entire ARC service area was severely impacted. Hurricane strength winds caused significant trees and infrastructure damage. Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. (Ceres) was mobilized immediately, under Augusta Emergency Procurement policy, for tree debris removal. In addition, Augusta, Georgia initiated a request for proposals (RFP) to select the disaster debris removal contractor for continuity of services beyond the emergency contract period and future similar service needs. Ceres was selected as the contractor based on RFP evaluation criteria. On November 19, 2024 Augusta Commission awarded the disaster debris removal contract to Ceres. Ceres ongoing services under emergency contract transitioned to this new contract effective January 1, 2025. Funds initial allocation to RFP24-195 contracted services is \$15.4 million and is soon reaching the full utilization amount. As of February 23, 2025 Ceres roughly removed & hauled 2.95 million CY vegetative, 523 thousand mulch, 2000 C&D debris.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Ceres is presently providing hurricane Helene debris removal services under RFP 24-195 contract. Augusta Commission allocated \$15.3 initially to this contract. As of February 23, 2025 Ceres Has roughly reached around \$13.3M billable amount. Given debris current project volume, additional funds in an amount not to exceed \$15M is requested to be allocated for Ceres to continue its services. It will bring total NTE allocation to \$61.7 million (both emergency period & regular contract allocations). Continuity of ongoing debris removal is critical not only for road traffic safety but also for public health & safety. Hence continuous funding is needed.

**Financial Impact:** Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis from FEMA and GEMA.

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Recommendation:** Approve supplement funding (supplement 4) in amount not to exceed \$15.0 million for Hurricane Helene Debris Removal services with Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. Also approve use of General Fund fund-balance to fund these services. AE/ 24-915.

**Funds are available in the following accounts:** (\$15,000,000) – 220-041252-52.21112/814000003-52.21112

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:** HM/sr