



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Christina Taylor, Community Development Director
DATE: May 17, 2022
SUBJECT: **Consideration of an Increase to Current Private Property Weed Abatement Rates and an Increase to Weed Abatement Allocation for Private Property Weed Abatement through July 2023**

Background and Analysis:

The City of Beaumont utilizes independent contractors to perform weed abatement services throughout the City for privately owned and City owned property. Weed abatement on private property is managed through the Community Enhancement Department (Code Enforcement) and is conducted pursuant to Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 8.08.

In November 2019, City Council approved multiple vendors to conduct weed abatement throughout the City. The contractors are:

- AB Landscape,
- Howard's, and
- West SWPPP Weed Abatement.

At the beginning of weed abatement season, staff verifies each of these contractors have a valid business license and remain bonded and insured to meet the City's requirements. Currently, only Howard's and AB Landscape remain eligible to perform work for the City of Beaumont.

At the time of approval in 2019, the following rates were established for weed abatement services:

- Handwork - \$35 per hour per person, three (3) persons maximum and a 1-hour minimum
- Disking - \$105 per acre for disking or mowing

From November 2019 – May 2022 the following amounts have been expended for weed abatement:

Vendor	City Owned Properties	Private Properties	
Howard's	\$30,225.00	\$72,283.58	
AB Landscape	\$10,400.00	\$47,704.50	
West SWPPP	\$0	\$10,910.00	
Subtotal	\$40,625.00	\$130,898.08	
Grand Total			\$171,523.08

Due to the increase in fuel costs, insurance costs and the challenges in finding labor, the vendors have requested an increase to the disking/mowing and handwork rates. Based on discussion with the vendors, City staff is recommending the proposed handwork rate be set at \$65 per hour per person, three (3) persons maximum and a 1-hour minimum and the proposed increase to the disking/mowing rate be set at \$120 per acre.

In May 2020, in an effort to expand the number of vendors available for weed abatement, City staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for weed abatement services. Upon review of the bid access report, it was found that 28 vendors accessed the RFP but only one vendor submitted a proposal. That proposal included rates at \$800 per acre for handwork and \$125 per acre for disking. Due to the lack of other bids and the handwork rate being so far from the current rate, the bid was formally rejected at the City Council meeting on July 21, 2020. Based on this information and the increase in costs cited by the current vendors, City staff supports an increase to the rates as noted above.

The currently allocated funds for weed abatement are nearing full expenditure. City staff is requesting City Council allocate \$60,000.00 for private property weed abatement through June 30, 2023. Staff will be releasing a new RFP for weed abatement in the upcoming fiscal year in hopes of expanding the pool of contractors available for City use and providing opportunity for more vendors to work with the City.

Fiscal Impact:

Charges for private property weed abatement are recovered from the property owners through invoices, liens and/or assessment on the property tax roll.

Recommended Action:

Authorize an additional \$60,000 for private property weed abatement through June 30, 2023,

Increase the weed abatement rate for handwork to \$65 per hour per person, three (3) persons maximum and a 1-hour minimum and increase the rate for disking/mowing to \$120 per acre, and

Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the revised contracts with the authorized vendors reflecting the new rates.