



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Christina Taylor, Community Development Director  
**DATE** July 21, 2020  
**SUBJECT: Rejection of Bid in Response to a Request for Proposal for Weed Abatement Services**

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### **Background and Analysis:**

The City of Beaumont utilizes independent contractors to perform weed abatement services throughout the City for both privately owned land and those owned by the City. Weed abatement on private property is conducted pursuant to Beaumont Municipal Code Section 8.08.

The weed abatement program is a function of Code Enforcement, a division of the Community Development Department. Community Services staff works closely with Community Enhancement officers to monitor City-owned parcels and ensure that weed abatement services are performed in accordance with the Beaumont Municipal Code. The City owns more than 115 acres of open space that require weed abatement services on a year-round basis.

Beaumont contracts with multiple vendors to perform weed abatement services. Charges incurred for privately owned lots are recovered from the property owners through invoices, liens, and/or assessments to the property tax roll. Charges incurred for City-owned lots are paid for through the appropriate fund.

There are three (3) contractors currently providing weed abatement services to the City. Those contracts for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 were approved by the City Manager in accordance with the procurement requirements outlined in the Beaumont Municipal Code. In an effort to expand the number of contractors available to staff for weed abatement purposes, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued through Public Purchase. The RFP was open from May 20, 2020, through June 10, 2020. Twenty vendors downloaded the proposal and one proposal was submitted by Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. The rates proposed by Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. are as follows:

- Hand crew \$800 per acre,
- Weed abatement w/standard machinery \$100 per acre,

- Disking or similar service \$125 per acre, and
- Specialty day equipment rate \$480 per 8-hour day.

The City is currently paying the following rates for weed abatement services:

- Hand crew \$35 per hour per person, three-person maximum (\$105 hr max);
- Disking and mowing \$105 per acre; and
- Water truck (as needed) \$95 per hour.

Although some of the service rates proposed are comparable, the cost for hand crew work is nearly eight times the current rate and the cost for specialized equipment is four times the current rate. Most of the handwork is performed on City property and the cost increase would be a significant impact. For private property, the increase would be borne by property owners. Given the cost increases on critical components of weed abatement services and having only received one proposal, staff is recommending the rejection of proposal from Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Cost of time to prepare RFP, evaluate bid and prepare staff report is approximately \$1,200.

**Recommended Action:**

Rejecting the proposal from Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.

**Attachments:**

- A. Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. Cost Proposal
- B. RFP for Weed Abatement Services