



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 26, 2023

PRESENTER: Jerry Jones, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for the Hart Ranch Community Park Phase II Orchard Removal to JFS Enterprises, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION: Council by motion adopt the resolution awarding the contract for the Hart Ranch Community Park Phase II Orchard Removal to JFS Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$45,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Hart Ranch Community Park, formerly referred to as Eastside Community Park, will be located at the northeast corner of Goldenrod Avenue and California Avenue. The first phase of the development of the Park will consist of the westerly 15 acres. This area has been cleared of the plum orchard that previously occupied it. The City has also purchased an additional 10 acres adjacent to, and immediately east of the first 15 acres. The subject 10 acres currently is occupied by a plum orchard that has been farmed in prior years by the previous property owner, through a lease with the City. The City would like to clear the plum orchard to provide for easier upkeep of the property. The City requested bids for the orchard removal in January 2023 in accordance with the City's Purchasing System. Bids were received from six contractors and they are as follows:

Contractor	Base Bid
Integrity Arborist & Ecoscape, Inc.	\$25,000.00
JFS Enterprises, Inc.	\$45,000.00*
Marco A. Gonzalez Engineering Inc.	\$45,000.00
GCB1 Inc.	\$48,750.00
HD Matthews	\$49,745.00
Bowen Engineering & Environmental	\$71,000.00

*See Fiscal Impact Section

Upon reviewing the bids received, Staff was concerned with the low bid submitted from Integrity Arborist & Ecoscape being so much lower than the others. Staff reached out to Integrity Arborist to confirm that they had a clear understanding of the scope of work to be performed, which they said they did, and to request references to confirm their familiarity with this type of work. Once received, Staff was able to make contact with two of the three references provided. Both references stated that Integrity Arborist provides tree trimming and

removal, as well as landscape maintenance for commercial and residential (multi-family) properties that they manage. Although Integrity Arborist does provide tree removal, it appears that it is only for individual trees of an urban nature (i.e. shade trees, street trees, decorative trees, etc.). The type of work they provide, per their references, is quite a bit different than the required orchard removal scope of work, and Staff was not provided with any further references to show that they have performed orchard removal or similar work in the past.

In accordance with the California Public Contract Code, projects of \$60,000 or less may be performed by City employees by force account, by negotiated contract, or by purchase order. Although no informal or formal bidding process is required under the Public Contract Code, the City's Purchasing System (specifically KMC Section 3.20.050-060) requires that an informal bidding process be used for projects of \$30,001 or higher, except that the City is not required to award to the lowest bidder as other factors may be considered, including cost, experience/ability, and quality of past performance. Based on this, Staff is recommending award of the contract to the second lowest bidder, JFS Enterprises, due to the following:

1. Integrity Arborist & Ecoscape has not provided any information to document experience with the type of work required by this Project; and
2. The City has no past experience with Integrity Arborist & Ecoscape and thus no first hand knowledge of their ability to perform, or quality of work; and
3. JFS Enterprises performed the orchard clearing for the 15 acres (to be developed as initial phase of Hart Ranch Park) immediately adjacent to the subject 10 acres, and the City is satisfied with their performance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

JFS Enterprises' submitted bid was in the amount of \$42,000. Since some time has went by since bids were submitted, Staff contacted JFS to see if they were still interested in performing the work. They indicated that they are still interested, but need to increase their quoted amount by \$3,000, for a total of \$45,000 due to rising costs. The orchard removal will be funded with Measure M funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution