

Department of Public Works – Engineering Division

MEMO

TO: Utilities Committee

FROM: Danielle Block, Director of Public Works
Pete Neuberger, Deputy Director of Public Works
Paul Krause, DPW Horticulturist

SUBJECT: Award Single Source K-24 Native Landscape Management Contract to NES Ecological Services – A Division of Robert E. Lee & Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$192,345.12.

DATE: March 12, 2024

The Department of Public Works recommends award of the single source Unit K-24 Native Landscape Management Contract to NES Ecological Services – A Division of Robert E. Lee & Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$192,345.12. The 2024 combined capital and maintenance native landscaping budget is \$205,000.

The following tasks are included in this contract:

Native Vegetation Maintenance and New Installations at City Stormwater Ponds and Channels

- Provide vegetation inspections and recommendations.
- Provide invasive species and algae control through herbicide, mowing, brushing, and/or controlled burns.
- Provide preparation, seeding, planting, and erosion control at sparsely established areas and new sites.
- Maintain pond aerators.

The proposed contract amount also includes an estimated \$4,084 of work at Facilities Department sites, to be paid by Facilities Department through interdepartmental agreement.

DPW last issued a Unit K RFP for the 2022 contract. Per that memo dated February 15, 2022, DPW identified that for 2023 through 2026, DPW intended to negotiate a single-source contract for Unit K with the selected contractor each year, subject to committee and council approvals at the appropriate times.

DPW requests that the Utilities Committee approve a 2024 contract with NES for these services. NES performed very well as the 2023 contractor, demonstrating good customer service, expertise, and cost-effectiveness. Proposed K-24 unit prices include a 5% unit price increase compared to the K-23 unit prices, plus a 2% Performance Bond fee. DPW staff have determined that this is a reasonable price increase based on equipment, material and labor market conditions.

If NES continues to perform to DPW's satisfaction, DPW anticipates negotiating single source contracts through 2026 with NES annually and requesting committee and council approvals at the appropriate times.