

APPROVED
APR 05 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-86

DATE April 5, 2006

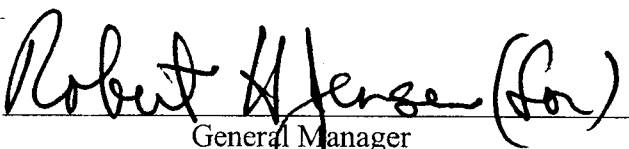
**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MASTER AGREEMENT FOR BRUSH CLEARANCE CONTRACTORS

*J. Combs 	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
B. Jensen _____	M. Shull _____


General Manager

Approved Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the master agreement for brush clearance contractors, to be entered into with the attached list of pre-approved contractors, substantially in the form attached hereto, subject to the City Attorney's approval;
2. Find that in accordance with Charter Section 1022, the Department does not have personnel available in its employ with the necessary expertise to perform these services in a timely manner, and that it is more feasible and economical, as well as in the Department's best interest, to secure these services by contract;
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed master agreement to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review as to form; and,
4. Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with each approved Brush Clearance contractor upon receipt of necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has the responsibility for brush clearance for all Department properties where the threat of catastrophic property loss or physical injury due to brush or wildfires can occur at any time. The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sec.

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57.21.07 states that the Department has the responsibility to abate certain hazardous public nuisances that would include, but not be limited to, brush clearance, weed and/or refuse abatement, tree trimming or removal, within 200 feet of private residences and 10 feet from roadways. In order to comply with LAMC in a timely fashion, the Department requires the services of qualified brush clearance contractors, each of whom must execute a master agreement with the Department.

Each year, the Department puts out to bid brush clearance service packages for approximately 225 parcels of varying sizes. A pre-qualified group of brush clearance contractors are contracted to provide the work. The group of contractors has received training and certification through the Los Angeles City Fire Department's (LAFD) Brush Clearance Unit, and were selected through a Request for Qualification process. Contractors must attend mandatory orientation sessions presented by RAP and LAFD outlining the City's and Department's Brush Clearance policies and compliance needs. All Contractors must comply with the City's Standard Provisions for Contracts and the Department's Brush Clearance policies. The majority of the contractors have expert staff to perform the more hazardous projects. Tree trimming above 15 feet requires the contractor to hold a C-61 or D-49 license from the California Contractors State License Board. Throughout the year, Department staff clears brush in non-hazardous conditions where special expertise and equipment are not required. The list of pre-approved contractors is shown on Attachment A, of this report.

Department staff has conferred with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services and an agreement was reached concerning the responsibility for brush clearance and landscape vegetation maintenance on Department owned property. Those parcels requiring machine disking will be forwarded to the Lot Cleaning Division of Street Services for abatement. The remaining parcels will continue to be cleared using the contract process.

The Department will compile several bid packages consisting of 30 to 50 hours of brush clearance for each. The packages may include multiple parcels to be abated. Work will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder on the approved list. When the bid package is awarded, the contractor becomes responsible, pursuant to the terms of the master agreement, for completing the work within 13 calendar days. Since time is of the essence, contractors who fail to meet the deadlines will be assessed liquidated damages in the amount of \$200 per day. The contract will be for a one-year term with provisions to extend the term for two additional years, exercisable in one-year increments at the discretion of the Board.

In the 2005-2006 Budget, \$1,012,000 (Brush Clearance Account 3040) was provided to fund these contracts. The Department has a balance of approximately \$652,000 to initiate the brush clearing season prior to July 2006 when the new budget for 2006-2007 becomes available. The Department anticipates the 2006-2007 Budget will allocate another \$1,012,000 for brush clearance. It is estimated that \$1,450,000 will be spent during the 2006

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Department anticipates the 2006-2007 Budget will allocate \$1,012,000 for brush clearance in account 3040. That amount plus the current balance of \$652,000 will be sufficient to meet the Department's required clearance responsibilities for the 2006-2007 season.

Report prepared by Debby Rolland, Superintendent, West Region.