



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 8d

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: September 8, 2020

From: Syed Murtuza, Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Awarding a \$478,740 Contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Root Control Program, City Project No. 86110

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution awarding a contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Root Control Program, City Project No. 86110, for a period of three years in the total amount of \$478,740, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the same.

BACKGROUND

The City of Burlingame operates and maintains approximately 90 miles of sanitary sewer main and approximately 40 miles of sanitary sewer lateral systems (lower laterals). Intrusion of tree roots into sanitary sewer pipes is one of the most destructive and recurring problems encountered in the maintenance of a wastewater collection system. The root-related problems include:

- Structural damage and displacements of pipes caused by growing roots.
- Formation of septic pools behind root masses in the pipes.
- Sewer stoppages and overflows that could potentially cause adverse impacts on public health and safety and the environment.

Root control, commonly known as root foaming, is a standard maintenance practice in the operation of a wastewater collection system that consists of applying an approved chemical agent to the interior of sewer pipes in order to control roots and limit their growth. The chemical agent and method of application utilized is safe and has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The foam is pumped through the sewer main systems from manhole to manhole to compress it against the interior of pipe surfaces. The same chemical treatment is also applied to sanitary sewer laterals maintained by the City. After the application of the herbicide foam, the roots in the sewer pipes stop growing and eventually die off. Trees and surface vegetation are unharmed and not impacted with this method, and disruption to the public is very minimal. The treatment generally inhibits re-growth of roots for approximately two years.

The City has been successfully performing root foaming of the sewer collection system for over 10 years, and the method has proven effective in reducing the number of sewer overflows and improving the reliability of the wastewater collection system performance. On average, approximately five percent (4.5 miles) of the City's sewer mains are treated each year using this method. The areas in the sewer system are prioritized for this application based on engineering assessments and inspections of pipelines through the closed circuit television system.

DISCUSSION

The project was advertised for bids on July 29, 2020. On August 19, 2020, the City received one sealed bid from Duke's Root Control, Inc., in the amount of \$478,740 for a period of three years. Staff reviewed their proposal and determined that the contractor has met all the project requirements and has a successful past history of performing similar work for the City of Burlingame and other public agencies. As a result, staff recommends that the City Council award the contract to Duke's Root Control, Inc.

The project scope of work consists of applying the root foaming to approximately 23,000 linear feet of sewer pipelines on an annual basis. All work will be performed utilizing the highest safety standards as required by the USEPA and California regulatory standards, with very minimal disruption to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total price for the root foaming contract for a three-year period is \$478,740. There are adequate funds available in the Public Works Department's operation and maintenance budget to undertake the work for the current fiscal year. Funding for the following two years of root foaming work will be programmed into future years' budgets.

Exhibits:

- Resolution
- Contract
- Project Location Map