



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 9d

MEETING DATE: June 1, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: June 1, 2026

**From: Chris Lamm, Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230
Rick Horne, Streets, Storm Drains, and Sewer Division Manager – (650) 558-7679**

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Awarding a \$658,184.20 Contract to Duke's Root Control Inc. for the FY2026-2029 Sanitary Sewer Root Control Project, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Contract

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution awarding a contract to Duke's Root Control Inc. for the FY 2026-2029 Sanitary Sewer Root Control Project in the amount of \$658,184.20 for a three-year period and authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract.

BACKGROUND

The City of Burlingame operates and maintains approximately 90 miles of sanitary sewer main and approximately 30 miles of sanitary sewer lateral system (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:

- Damage to pipes and displacement of joints caused by growing roots.
- Formation of septic pools behind root masses in the pipes.
- 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 and 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 are safe and have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The foam product is pumped through the sewer main systems from manhole to manhole to compress it against the interior of pipe surfaces. The same foam treatment is 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 by this method, and disruption to the public is very minimal. The treatment generally inhibits the regrowth 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 April 15, 2026, and the sealed bids were opened on May 5, 2026. The City received one bid in the amount of \$658,184.20 from Duke's Root Control Inc. for a period of three years. Duke's Root Control Inc. is the sole responsible and responsive bidder with its bid amount of \$658,184.20. Staff has reviewed the proposal and determined that the contractor has met all the project requirements. Duke's Root Control Inc. has a successful history of performing similar work for the City of Burlingame, City of Belmont, City of San Jose, City of Oakland, and other public agencies. As a result, staff recommends that the City Council award the contract to Duke's Root Control Inc. in the amount of \$658,184.20.

The project scope of work consists of applying 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 a very minimal disruption to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total price for the sanitary sewer root control contract for a three-year period is \$658,184.20. There are adequate funds available in the Department's Operations and Maintenance Budget to undertake the work for the current fiscal year. Funding for the following two years of sanitary sewer root control work will be programmed into future years' budgets.

Exhibits:

- Resolution
- Bid Summary
- Contract
- Duke's Root Control Inc. Proposal
- Project Location Map