



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: David Newell, Community Development Director

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2024-163, Approving Additional Funding for the City's Weed Abatement Program from a total of \$120,000 to \$300,000 for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Approving Amendment No. 1 to Professional Service Agreements with CM Landscapes, Integrity Arborist & Ecoscape, Inc, and Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2024-163.

BACKGROUND:

On May 14, 2024, the City Council approved Resolution 2024-061, authorizing professional service agreement contracts with three vendors - CM Landscape, Integrity Arborist & Landscaping and Mariposa Landscaping - to conduct weed abatement services within the City. The limit for these services was \$40,000 per vendor for a total amount not to exceed \$120,000 per fiscal year for a five year period beginning fiscal year 2023/2024. The May 14, 2024 Staff Report is included as an attachment for additional background.

The City subsequently entered into the agreements with the authorized vendors and weed abatement work began during the summer. The abatement work has been completed on 57 parcels of land throughout the City, including city-owned and privately-owned properties. There are more than 30 parcels that currently require weed abatement. A list of properties and associated costs for this work is included as an attachment to this report.

To date, the cost to provide these services has totaled \$202,176.63 and there is a need to conduct additional weed abatement during the current fiscal year.

JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution 2024-061 authorized an allocation of \$120,00 (\$40,000) for each fiscal year, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. However, the funding for FY 2023/2024 did not carry forward, nor was it used for the authorized work that totaled an amount of \$202,176.63 between the three vendors during this past summer. The funding to complete the work for known weed abatement projects is roughly \$40,000 more than the authorized amount of \$202,176.63. Staff would also recommend adequate funds are available for abatement work that may be necessary for the remainder of the fiscal year (through June 2025), seeking an additional funding amount of \$60,000, for a total need not to exceed \$300,000 for FY 2024/2025.

Additionally, instead of specifying maximum amounts for each vendor, staff would request the ability to determine which vendor completes the work, as long as the total authorized amount does not exceed

\$300,000 for all vendor authorizations during the fiscal year. This will ensure the weed abatement program continues in a seamless manner and is not limited by one or two vendor's who may have more availability than the others.

Weed abatement is critical to minimizing the threat of fire hazards in the City, as specified in Chapter 8.48 (Nuisances) of the Banning Municipal Code (BMC). The City has been actively using the vendors' services and with the extended summer heat it is imperative to continue providing weed abatement to minimize fire risks within the City.

For privately-owned property, the City will continue to pursue owner compliance with BMC Chapter 8.48. When the City is unsuccessful with voluntary compliance, the administrative citation process in BMC Chapter 1.20 will be pursued and include cost recovery for the vendors' services, as specified in BMC Chapter 1.32, to reduce cost impacts to the extent feasible by the City's Cost Recovery ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact involves increasing the allocated FY 2024/2025 funding for this service from \$120,000 to \$300,000. The vendors provide the service as needed and the City has determined a greater need to continue this work for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff will continue to pursue cost recovery on privately-owned property through BMC Chapter 1.32, Cost Recovery, to minimize costs. Vendor invoices will be paid from expense account: 001-2740-442.23-39.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Continue the Agenda Item, providing alternative direction to staff concerning the City's Weed Abatement obligations.
2. Increase total funding from \$120,000 to an amount less than \$300,000 and approve amendments to vendor agreements accordingly (this alternative would limit City's ability to pursue weed abatement for remainder of fiscal year).

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution_2024-163_Amendment_No._1_to_Weed_Abatement.docx](#)
2. [Exhibit A - C01016 Amend No.1 CM Landscape Weed Abatement.docx](#)
3. [Exhibit B - C01017 Amend No.1 Integrity Landscape Weed Abatement.docx](#)
4. [Exhibit C - C01018- Amend No.1 CSA Mariposa - Weed Abatement.docx](#)
5. [5-14-24 City Council Staff Report for Weed Abatement Agreements.pdf](#)
6. [Authorized Weed Abatement by Vendor.pdf](#)