



**CITY OF LODI  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Approve Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Tree Trimming for Fiscal Year 2006/07

**MEETING DATE:** January 17, 2007

**PREPARED BY:** Public Works Director

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for tree trimming for fiscal year 2006/07.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** This project would provide for the structural pruning and maintenance trimming of approximately 325 City trees at various locations throughout the City for the remainder of fiscal year 2006/07. The objective of this contract is to improve the health of our urban forest and reduce costs associated with this effort.

The purpose of this bid is to secure pricing for grid pruning similar to the tag-on bid with West Coast Arborist done in April of 2006. "Grid pruning" means that all trees in a specified area are pruned at one time. The size of the "grid" is established each time based on available funds, tree density, age, etc. This proved extremely cost effective in reducing the per-tree cost of pruning from an average of \$159 per tree to \$49. The disadvantage of this method is that some trees that need maintenance may have to wait until their area is done.

The bid will be for only one grid with optional smaller grids. In addition to the grid pruning, there will be a number of optional bid items to cover emergency work in order to expedite response time. Since this will be covered by the remaining funds left in the Tree Operations operating budget, the grid area has been adjusted to accommodate a slightly higher per-tree cost due to quantity and tree size. The contract will be for one year with options to renew, if mutually agreeable.

The specifications are on file in the Public Works Department.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The proposed method of performing tree maintenance on all trees in a specified area is much more cost effective than performing custom maintenance on individual trees throughout the City. The City has approximately 9,000 street trees. The current budget provides \$50,000 total for this work. At \$50 per tree, using grid pruning, each tree would be maintained on a 9-year cycle, compared to a 27-year cycle at the current average tree cost of \$150.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** Funds for this project will come from the 2006/07 Street Operating budget.  
Project Estimate: \$19,500  
Planned Bid Opening Date: February 1, 2007

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Public Works Director

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**APPROVED:**   
Blair King, City Manager