



**CITY OF LODI  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Fiscal Year 2013/14 Annual Tree Trimming Contract for Power Line Clearing  
**MEETING DATE:** May 15, 2013  
**PREPARED BY:** Electric Utility Director

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Fiscal Year 2013/14 annual tree trimming contract for power line clearing.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The Electric Utility Department (EUD) has utilized a tree trimming contractor for its line clearing requirements since June 2009. The current contract with Asplundh Tree Expert Company of Stockton is due to expire on June 30, 2013 at the conclusion of the final extension year. Therefore, it is necessary to advertise for bids for line-clearing services after this date.

The specifications for tree trimming have been updated. It has been prepared on a 12-month basis with the option to extend annually thereafter, at the City's sole discretion, for a maximum of three additional years. The specifications would provide the City with a three-person backyard crew and a two-person street crew, including vehicles; equipment and other expenses for two crews.

Maintaining an adequate line clearance program is a critical element to electric system reliability. Due to the excellent results the utility has experienced with contracting out this service (i.e. significant reduction of outage time and overall cost effectiveness), it is recommended that the contracting program be continued. The proposed tree trimming program covers the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 with the option for up to three additional one-year extensions covering fiscal years 2014/15 and 2015/16 and 2016-17. The specifications are on file with the EUD.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Estimated annual cost of \$490,000, with additional, unquantifiable benefit to customers from reduced outages.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** Included in FY 2013/14 Account No. 160654.  
Funding for contract extensions shall be approved on a year-to-year basis.

*for Barry Fisher*  
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Elizabeth A. Kirkley  
Electric Utility Director

**PREPARED BY:** Barry Fisher, Construction/Maintenance Supervisor  
EAK/BF/LST

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**APPROVED:**

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Konradt Bartlam, City Manager