



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 15, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief
Subject: Contract No. 32200227 Amendment: Fire Aside for Wildfire Resilience Software

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No. 32200227 with Fire Aside, LLC for defensible space inspection and community chipper management software increasing the amount by \$150,000 for an amended total amount not to exceed \$410,000 and maintaining the same term which ends on May 17, 2028.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total cost of the contract will not exceed \$410,000. Funding will be provided from funds, including, but not limited to, Measure FF (2020), Measure GG (2008), UC Settlement, and the General Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Fire Department continues wildfire-prevention efforts in Berkeley's fire-prone neighborhoods, including defensible space and home-hardening inspections, vegetation-management programs, resident education, and follow-up on required or recommended mitigation measures. Managing these programs at scale requires a software platform that supports field data collection, property-level documentation, resident-facing reports, program coordination, analytics, and evaluation of progress over time.

Fire Aside provides a mobile, wildfire-specific platform that enables inspectors to document property conditions, GPS locations, photographs, defensible space, and home-hardening characteristics. Since the City entered into its contract with Fire Aside, the platform has expanded to include additional features supporting the Defensible Space Inspection and chipper programs. As these capabilities have been implemented, the original amount authorized by Council has become insufficient to support the contract through the end of its term.

This contract supports the Strategic Plan goal of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the City Council authorized a contract with Fire Aside for wildfire inspection and vegetation-management software through a waiver of competitive solicitation, based on the Department's need for a purpose-built platform that integrated defensible space and home-hardening inspections, resident engagement, and chipper program management. Since then, Fire Aside has been a reliable and cost-effective vendor for the City. However, in advance of the current contract's expiration in May 2028, the Department intends to conduct a procurement process to evaluate available solutions and procure these services for the subsequent contract term.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no direct adverse environmental or climate impacts associated with the contract amendment. The software supports wildfire-risk-reduction programs that promote defensible space, home hardening, vegetation management, and community resilience to climate-driven wildfire hazards.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Continuing to use the Fire Aside software platform will preserve a consistent workflow for inspectors and residents, retain access to property-level program data, and support the Department's wildfire-resilience programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The city could choose to significantly reduce the wildfire prevention work by not funding the contract extension or conduct a separate competitive solicitation now which would require additional staff time in the middle of inspection and wildfire season and could delay continuity of services.

CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32200227 AMENDMENT: FIRE ASIDE FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE
SOFTWARE

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley faces significant wildfire risk and the Fire Department conducts defensible space, home-hardening, vegetation-management, and resident-education programs to reduce that risk; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department requires a mobile, wildfire-specific software platform to document property conditions, produce customized resident recommendations, coordinate mitigation programs, and analyze progress toward community risk reduction; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City Council authorized a contract with Fire Aside for wildfire inspection and vegetation-management software through a waiver of competitive solicitation, based on the Department's need for a purpose-built platform that integrated defensible space and home-hardening inspections, resident engagement, and chipper program management; and

WHEREAS, since the City entered into its original contract with Fire Aside, the City has expanded use of the software platform to include additional features supporting the Defensible Space Inspection and chipper programs; and

WHEREAS, as these capabilities have been implemented, the original amount authorized by Council has become insufficient to support the contract through the end of its term; and

WHEREAS, funding will be provided from the following funds, including, but not limited to, Measure FF (2020), Measure GG (2008), UC Settlement and the General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to amend Contract No. 32200227 with Fire Aside, LLC for defensible space inspection and community chipper management software increasing the amount by \$150,000 for an amended total amount not to exceed \$410,000 and maintaining the same term which ends on May 17, 2028.

