



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 25, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief

Subject: Contract - Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance for Chipping Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute a contract and any amendments, with Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance to provide Chipping Services for three years from March 1, 2025 until February 29, 2028 with the option to extend for two additional one-year terms in the amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY25-26 Adopted Budget includes funding for vegetation management and fuel reduction efforts from a variety of sources that is available for use toward the cost of chipping services within the Fire Department (General Fund, Measure FF and/or UC Settlement Fund). The Fire Department may pursue grants to offset the cost of this service and upon grant approval, these funds would be added to the Department budget through the Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO) process.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City conducted RFP Specification No. 25-11697-C with proposals due no later than January 7, 2025. The City received four proposals in response to this RFP. The selection committee, composed of subject matter experts from the Fire Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, met to evaluate the proposals on January 22, 2025. The criteria used to rate the proposals were Project Approach (20%), Expertise and References (40%), Cost (20%), and Relevant Experience (20%). Forster and Kroeger (F&K) was selected as the highest scoring vendor. The Contractor has signed the City's Nuclear Free Zone Disclosure Form, Oppressive States Compliance Statement, Living Wage Certification Form, and the Sanctuary City Compliance Statement.

The citywide chipping program is one way the City supports residents across Fire Zones 1, 2 and 3 to remove vegetation from their properties and create defensible space. The chipping program removed over 3,000 cubic yards of vegetative fuel load from Berkeley homes in 2024 alone.

F&K was selected as the leading vendor that has adequate staff and equipment to service Berkeley and years of experience working directly with the event-based, curbside chipping software used by the City. Additionally, F&K has the following certifications and licenses: State Contractor's License with a C-27 certification (#748791); Small Business (Micro) certification, with a 721029 classification, by the California Department of General Services (#18296); certification as a State Minority Business Enterprise with the California Department of Transportation (#31098); registration with the California Department of Industrial Relations (#1000027030).

### BACKGROUND

F & K responded to a Request for Proposal and was selected after submitting the most competitive bid. All chipping contractors in the area were eligible to bid on the project, with submittals due by January 7, 2025. Requirements for a complete bid offer included the ability to provide at least two, 3-person crews for work between Monday and Thursday over a 28-week period between March and December. Contractors were also required to submit detailed equipment lists that included multiple sized box trucks ranging from 14 to 24 cubic yard capacity as well as being able to supply their own chippers. This was necessary to ensure that there was enough equipment available to provide daily service and access to small roads in the hills.

All contractors were required to supply proof of insurance and liability coverage and agree to an onsite inspection of their service yard and equipment.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This program will support the removal and thinning of hazardous vegetation which will create more defensible space and help prevent a wildfire from becoming an urban structural conflagration. A smaller wildfire will generate a smaller volume of smoke if one does ignite in or adjacent to the City. The chipped vegetation is processed as green waste by the City of Berkeley transfer station.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is critically important that this program and contractor are in place by late Winter 2025 for a successful delivery in Spring 2025. This contract will provide up to four-seasons of service from F & K who has executed, and never had cancelled, similar contracts with neighboring agencies.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Purchasing the necessary apparatus, equipment and hiring numerous part-time employees required to run the program. This would be significantly more expensive and require a degree of management and supervision that the City does not have staff to fulfill.

### CONTACT PERSON

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

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

CONTRACT - FORSTER & KROEGER LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR CHIPPING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City conducted RFP Specification No. 25-11697-C with proposals due no later than January 7, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the City received four proposals and a selection committee composed of subject matter experts from the Fire Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront met to evaluate the proposals, and

WHEREAS, Forster and Kroeger (F&K) was selected as the highest scoring vendor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance to provide Chipping Services for two years from May 1, 2025 until April 30, 2027 with the option to extend for two additional one-year terms in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

