



Memorandum

MONTEREY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: General Manager
FROM: Director of Engineering and Compliance
SUBJECT: Award Contract for Tree Maintenance along Charles Benson Road to Tope's Tree Service, Inc. of Pacific Grove, CA in the Amount of \$85,215.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors authorize the award of a contract for Tree Maintenance along Charles Benson Road to Tope's Tree Service, Inc. of Pacific Grove, CA in the Amount of \$85,215.

BACKGROUND

Charles Benson Road is the main entrance road for all persons accessing both the Monterey Regional Waste Management District's (MRWMD) recycling & disposal facilities and the Monterey One Water's (M1W) regional treatment plant. It is a District owned two-lane, rubberized asphalt concrete paved road that connects the MRWMD/M1W facilities to Del Monte Boulevard. Charles Benson Road is approximately a mile in length and is mostly vegetated with trees on either side of the road. Most of the trees are more than 40 years old and have become quite large and tall. Maintenance of the trees has historically been limited and the trees have been allowed to grow naturally with little maintenance. At the July 23, 2021 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the solicitation of bids from qualified public works contractors to perform the tree maintenance services.



Photo 1 – View in northwest direction along Charles Benson Road (District's Entrance Road)

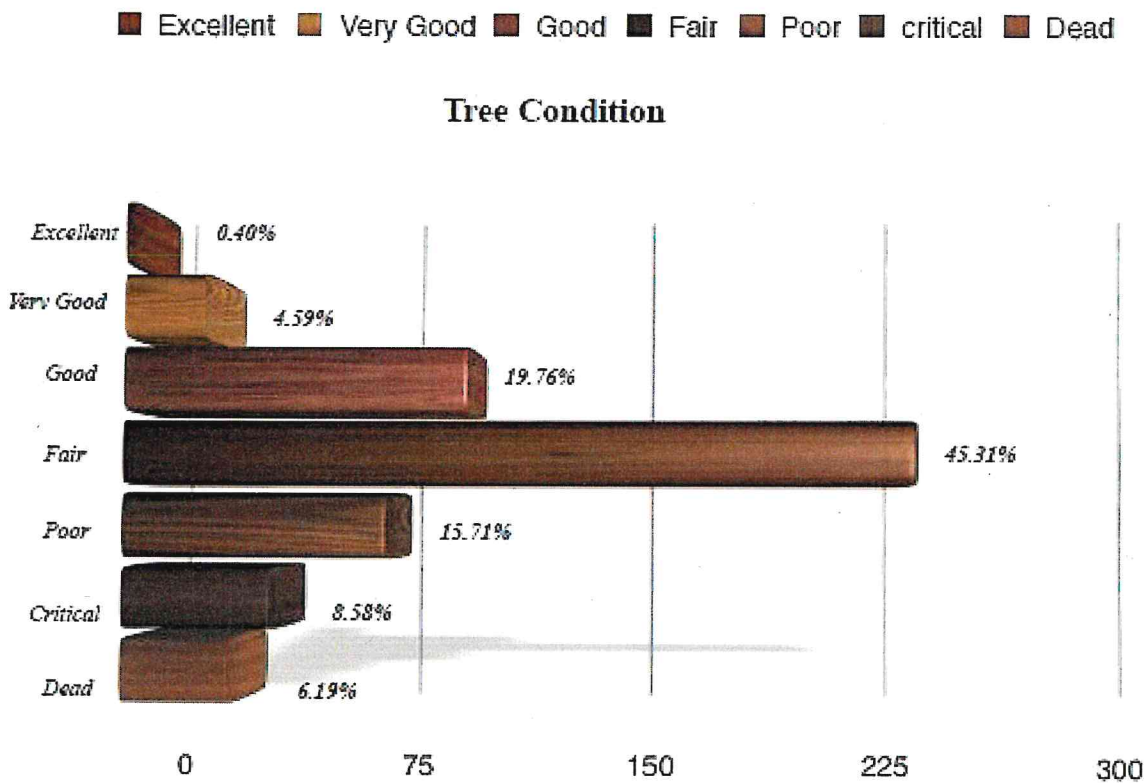


Photo 2 – View in northwest direction along Charles Benson Road (District's Entrance Road)



DISCUSSION

Charles Benson Road is the main entrance road to both the District's and M1W facilities. It is situated in a sand dune terrace environment that is predominately characterized by small plants and shrubs; rarely trees. The entrance road was developed in the mid-1960's to serve the District's newly opened landfill. Trees were planted on both sides of the road as part of its development. There are more than 200 trees on each side of the road; approximately 415 in total. The District received an arborist's report (Albert Weisfuss, 2016) which identified that the genus *Hesperocyparis* (*Cupressus*) *macrocarpa* (Monterey cypress) is the predominant tree species and comprises approximately 83% of the tree population, followed by *E. globules* (*Eucalyptus* 'compacta') 14%, *E. globulus* (*Eucalyptus* Blue gum) 2%, and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey pine) 1%. The arborist surveyed the relative health of the trees (July 2016) and presented that information in the "Tree Condition" chart below. Based on this information, 30% of the trees were rated in the "Poor" to worse condition. These conditions would be addressed by both a) tree removal and b) tree pruning.



Staff is anticipating a significant amount of work will be required to accomplish the tree removal and tree pruning. As this work will occur along the two-lane main access road, fulltime traffic control will also be required as part of the work to minimize traffic delays and maintain safe conditions for the contractor and customers. Staff issued an invitation to bid to six (6) tree contractors registered as public works contractors in the State of California for solicitation of a lump sum bid for both a baseline scope of work and a reduced, alternate scope of work. The Base Bid scope of work included 352 trees and consisted of the following:

- 37 trees (~7%) were defined for Priority 1 Removal
- 23 trees (~5%) were defined for Priority 2 Removal
- 20 trees (~4%) were defined for Priority 1 Pruning
- 272 trees (~54%) were defined for Priority 2 Pruning

The Alternate Bid scope of work included 57 trees and consisted of the following:

- 37 trees (~7%) were defined for Priority 1 Removal
- 20 trees (~4%) were defined for Priority 1 Pruning

On September 10, 2021, the District received one (1) sealed bid from Tope's Tree Service, Inc. of Pacific Grove, CA that offered the following:

Base Bid scope of work for a lump sum of \$526,240, and the
Alternate Bid scope of work for a lump sum of \$85,215

The Base Bid of \$526,240 exceeds the budget established for this year's increment of tree maintenance. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Alternate Bid of \$85,215 be awarded as it addresses the high priority (District's risk exposure) scope of work which is urgently required to be completed before the winter storm period. With the priority work completed, the remaining tree maintenance work will be organized into three or four annual increments, in decreasing degree of priority, and proposed in subsequent fiscal year budgets. This will be coordinated with M1W representatives as it is one of the areas of shared services with the District.

STRATEGIC PLAN


The recommended tree maintenance along the District's main entrance road, Charles Benson Road, is an inherent responsibility of maintaining the facility for the community's use and benefit. Thus, it is consistent with one of the goals of the strategic plan which is to maintain the District's facilities to allow continued access to the District's recycling & disposal services. Staff will engage with M1W representatives both on the shared responsibility of this year's tree maintenance work and also on the planning of subsequent years tree maintenance so that we incrementally accomplish the work defined by the Base Bid scope of work over several years and have that work included in each fiscal year's budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommended tree maintenance work for the Priority 1 tree removal and pruning is included in the FY 2021/22 budget. There are no other expenses or revenue considerations associated with this work.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the award of a contract for Tree Maintenance along Charles Benson Road to Tope's Tree Service, Inc. of Pacific Grove, CA in the Amount of \$85,215.



Guy R. Petrabor, P.E., G.E.