



# NEWPORT BEACH

## City Council Staff Report

May 14, 2019  
Agenda Item No. 10

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David A. Webb, Public Works Director - 949-644-3311,  
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**TITLE:** Amendment No. One for As-Needed Plant Healthcare Services with  
RPW Services, Inc. (C-7116-1)

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The City utilizes a contractor to provide plant healthcare services for City trees and landscaping. In an effort to improve the City's level of service and to maintain a quality urban forest, staff recommends approval of an amendment to our Maintenance Agreement 7116-1 with RPW Services, Inc. to extend the expiration date by two years and increase spending authority.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve Amendment No. One with RPW Services, Inc. for As-Needed Plant Healthcare Services to extend the expiration date by two years and increase the contract amount by \$120,000, for a new multi-year not-to-exceed total of \$240,000, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the amendment.

### **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

The current adopted budget, and as proposed in the next fiscal year budget, includes sufficient funding for this expense. Contract cost are expensed to the Professional Services account (Parks and Trees Section) of the Public Works Department, 0109032-811008.

**DISCUSSION:**

The current three-year contract for tree and plant health care services with RPW Services Inc. was executed on July 1, 2017 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$120,000. RPW primarily conducts tree health maintenance services including as-needed fertilization, growth and fruit control treatments and related pest control for the City's vast urban forest. RPW also provides professional tree and landscape inspections and consultation, and other tree and plant related services.

Pest control for City trees, palms and large shrubs provided by RPW Inc. under this contract includes such measures as organic bio-control methods, foliar treatments for insects and fungus, and growth hormones and antibiotics applications. Depending on the health services required, these treatments are typically either applied to the root zone, topically spot applied, injected directly into the tree/plant, or sprayed onto the tree/plant. Treatments are conducted on an as-needed basis, typically once or twice a year on the identified trees of concern. RPW has not provided weed control under their current contract; however, has the ability to provide this service if necessary. General City landscaping health and pest control services for parks, roadsides and streets medians is primarily included in the maintenance contracts conducted by other city contractors who directly care for those facilities.

Many new tree and landscape pests are introduced to Southern California annually. To combat these new infestations, maintaining good tree and plant health as well as early detection and preventative treatments are necessary in order to preserve the City's urban forest and natural resources. With the introduction of several new invasive pests over the last decade, we have also seen the need for new treatment methods for threatened City trees, both with active infestations that need immediate foliar treatments and those trees that can be systemically treated to prevent future outbreaks. Using integrated pest management principles, the City is utilizing new treatments, including the use of biological controls, such as the use of predatory insects (ladybugs), as the first priority to control pest insects.

The proposed amendment will extend the current contract by two additional years of service, add additional funding for said services and continue our pro-active program more effectively to protect our vast tree inventory. Additionally, the proposed amendment will allow RPW Services Inc. to include the ability to provide pest control recommendations to the City in accordance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Policy, which enable City staff and our maintenance contractors to conduct as-needed treatments in various areas of the City.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A – Amendment No. One to On-Call Maintenance/Repair Agreement