



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-1930, **Agenda Item #:** 32.

6/1/2023

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of four contracts for vegetation management around energized lines with ABC Professional Tree Services, BDG Trees, LLC, Pannell Contracting, LLC, and Sequoias Tree Expert LLC, each for up to three years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$15,000,000, divided among the contractors.

[Note: These contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program); therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Energy.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Austin Energy is designating this purchase as a Critical Business Need in accordance with Senate Bill 7, as adopted by the City as Resolution No. 040610-02.

### **For More Information:**

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: [FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov) or [512-974-2500](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov).

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

May 8, 2023 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote with three absences and one vacancy.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

These contracts will provide vegetation management around energized lines. This highly specialized work requires adherence to strict safety protocols and is critical to ensuring the public's safety, reducing wildfire risk, and protecting Austin Energy's (AE) infrastructure and ability to serve customers. Services include tree pruning and/or removal and suppression of various types of vegetation growing within AE's electrical facilities, utility easements, and rights-of-way.

These contracts will augment existing contractors currently under contract, who are experiencing labor shortages recruiting qualified line clearance tree trimmers. The current lack of crews is creating project delays that will prevent AE from meeting completion deadlines for vegetation management wildfire mitigation along

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AE's infrastructure corridors.

AE designated this procurement as a Critical Business Need due to the shortage of labor currently available to complete the required work. Staff vetted a short list of contractors for their expertise in this specialized field to determine the best value to the City.

**Contract Detail:**

<b><u>Contract Term</u></b>	<b><u>Length of Term</u></b>	<b><u>Contract Authorization</u></b>
Initial Term	1 yr.	\$ 5,000,000
Optional Extension 1	1 yr.	\$ 5,000,000
Optional Extension 2	1 yr.	\$ 5,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 yrs.</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>

**Note:** Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage.