

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **MARCH 8, 2011**

From: **JAMES DURFEE / MARK RIDEOUT** *vrh*

Subject: **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT SERVICES IN GRANITE BAY**

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended your Board authorize the Department of Facility Services to solicit bids for street-side grounds maintenance services in Granite Bay.

BACKGROUND: The Parks Division of the Department of Facility Services currently maintains landscaping within the median of Douglas Blvd. from Auburn Folsom Road to Cavitt Stallman Road and along several subdivisions that have frontages along the east side of Douglas Boulevard. The subdivisions that have landscaping that is maintained by the County are Alexandria Estates, Douglas Ranch, Granite Creek, Grosvenor Downs, Pheasant Grove, Quail Oaks I, Quail Oaks III, and Stratford Downs. In addition, the Parks Division maintains a new pathway and landscaping that was recently installed using grant funding. This pathway and landscaping is also located in the same vicinity as the other subdivision frontage landscaping along the east site of Douglas Blvd. Grounds maintenance services includes tasks such as caring for turf areas, picking up litter, pruning, and spraying weeds.

Funding for maintenance of the new pathway and landscaping is being provided by the County General Fund. Funding for maintenance of the other landscaped areas is provided from various individual County Service Area (CSA) assessments i.e. each subdivision pays for landscape maintenance on the portion of their subdivision that fronts on Douglas Boulevard. With the exception of Alexandria Estates, when the CSA's were established, they did not include a cost-of-living increase. Inflation has made it increasingly difficult for the Parks Division to maintain the areas within budget resulting in gradually declining service levels.

Street-side and median landscape maintenance is by its nature inefficient. Due to the small size of the individual areas that Parks maintains, staff must move frequently, requiring multiple setup and take down of safety equipment. These frequent moves, combined with the extra work required to safely access the Right of Way, make in-house provision of service to these CSAs cost prohibitive.

Staff has discussed and received direction from your Board at various meetings beginning last spring regarding review of potential opportunities to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. On August 10, 2010, your board received a service delivery update and directed Facility Services, among other departments to solicit competitive bids and expand use of temporary resources.

Consistent with that direction and your Board's ongoing interest to evaluate and to the extent practical, implement use of service delivery alternatives, to more safely and efficiently serve these street-side areas, Facility Services recommends contracting the

routine maintenance activities to a private firm that specializes in such work. These services are readily available in the Roseville/Granite Bay area. There is 0.65 of a full time equivalent (FTE) position currently assigned to maintain these areas. The County has discussed this proposal with the Stationary Engineers Local 39; and described that there would be no loss of existing employees, as the County labor will be reassigned to work in other areas of the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: The recommended action would not result in any new impact to the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds for the required contract services are appropriated within the individual CSA Zones. Redirection of the labor currently assigned to the CSAs will incrementally increase charges to other CSAs and cost centers within the Parks Budget but will not result in a net increase in labor costs.

JD:MR:JR:DB

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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