



MEMORANDUM
PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** November 16, 2021
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
BY: Brett Wood, Purchasing Manager
SUBJECT: Fuel Load Reduction Services – Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the award of a purchase order to Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc. of Foresthill, CA under an existing Master Services Agreement for fuel load reduction services in the amount of \$297,950, funded by Parks & Open Space approved operating budget for FY 2021-22.

Authorize the Purchasing Manager to sign all required documents.

BACKGROUND

The departments of Public Works, Parks & Open Spaces, and Facilities Management require qualified firms to provide on-call tree trimming and removal services, roadside vegetation management, and fuel load reduction services such as forest thinning and clearing, throughout Placer County. The Department of Parks and Open Space has developed a three-year plan to complete vegetation management on all County owned properties for wildfire risk reduction and compliance with defensible space regulations. The plan involves treatment of over 125 parcels throughout Placer County. Funding for this work was appropriated by your Board to the Parks and Open Space Capital Projects budget in FY 2021-22. A list of pre-qualified firms will be used to solicit bids for this vegetation management in phases.

To identify a list of qualified firms, the Department of Public Works and the Procurement Services Division developed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 20149. Your Board approved this Qualified List on April 13, 2021. All County departments may use the Qualified List for work to be performed on an “as-needed” basis depending on available funding, staffing levels, and shifting priorities of projects.

Referencing the qualified list for Fuel Load Reduction Services, Procurement Services assisted Parks & Open Spaces to release Invitation for Bid No. 20235 to the seven qualified contractors on the list. The bid included eleven different site locations throughout Placer County. Bids were received from four contractors including Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc., P31 Enterprises, Inc., Tree Pro Tree Service, Inc., and Bella Wildfire & Forestry, Inc. The bids were evaluated for lowest lump sum for each site location. Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc. was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for ten of the eleven site locations for a bid total of \$297,950. Bella Wildfire & Forestry, Inc. was the lowest responsive and responsible

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bidder for one of the eleven site locations for a bid total of \$23,257. A protest was submitted by one of the responding bidders. The protest was thoroughly investigated and was determined to be without merit, and was therefore denied.

The award amount of \$297,950 for Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc. exceeds the Purchasing Manager's signature authority. Therefore, your Board's approval is required to award a purchase order to Dowling Underground & Networking, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This vegetation management work is categorically exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301(h) Existing Facilities, 15304(i) Minor Alterations to Land, 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, and 15330 Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release of Hazardous Substances, of the CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption was filed with the Office of Planning and Research and the County Clerk on August 23, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this work is provided through the Parks & Open Space approved operating budget for FY 2021-22.

ATTACHMENTS

None.