

7/10/18 AGENDA, ITEM 2g - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CITYWIDE TREE INVENTORY, GPS MAPPING, CONDITION AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT.
SUPPLEMENTAL EMAIL SUBMITTED BY DAVID GRETHEN TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON 7/9/18 AT 9:53 A.M.

From: [David Grethen](#)
To: citycouncil@hermosabch.org ; [Glen Kau](#)
Cc: [Ann Yang](#) ; [Liz Zeigler](#)
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 9:53 AM
Subject: Citywide Tree Inventory (Council Agenda 2g)

The primary purpose of this comment letter is to obtain clarification and to consider the work scope of the subject contract. A secondary comment pertains to software costs. Please attach to agenda.

Work Scope and ROW Trees

It would be useful to clarify for Council and the Public, and as necessary in writing for the Contractor, whether the work scope includes trees in the public right-of-way (ROW), which are typically the responsibility of adjacent private land owners to maintain, protect, and replace as necessary per City code. My recollection is that I was verbally told that the ROW trees will be included, in response to inquiry during a Public Works Commission meeting. But when I review the work scope attached to the proposal and planned contract work scope, I find no mention of ROW, with the primary delineation of scope indicated by an attached city map showing park properties.

My hope was that inclusion of ROW trees might offer useful technical context to guide decisions or actions for the following:

- (1) Public Works Commission decisions about tree replacement requests, including need for removal and appropriateness of potential replacement locations, as well as assessing current inventory versus the city-approved tree replacement list.
- (2) Future policy development related to City trees and tree replacement, noting the existence of a related item in the Council Future Agenda Items portion of Council agendas.
- (3) Assessment of how well the ROW-adjacent property owners are meeting their obligations for care and maintenance of ROW trees.

What I do not know, in the event that ROW trees are out of scope, is what might be the incremental cost to include them, and whether such costs would be justified by the benefits listed above or any other identifiable benefits.

Software Costs

The Staff report recommends a City expenditure of \$10,000 for multi-year usage of tree inventory software, in addition to the proposed contract amount whose proposal already includes \$2,500 for a one-year software usage. If Council accepts the Staff recommendation for multi-year software, then consideration should be given to eliminating the \$2,500 one-year software expense from the contract. Another scenario for consideration would be to forego the multi-year software at this time, and use the one-year software per the proposal as a trial before committing further.

David Grethen
Public Works Commission