

# Staff Report

for the Administrative Practices Committee Meeting of October 17, 2019

**TO:** Administrative Practices Committee

**FROM:** Keane Sommers, P.E., Hydroelectric Manager  
Matthew Wheeler, P.E., Hydroelectric Compliance Administrator

**DATE:** October 15, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Contract Amendment for Vegetation Removal Project Contract with HELIX Environmental Construction Group

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***HYDROELECTRIC***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve a \$170,900 contract and associated amendment with HELIX Environmental Construction Group for vegetation removal work in the Hydroelectric Department.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Hydroelectric Department has been performing significant vegetation management work at hydro facilities within the Federal Energy Resource Commission (FERC) license boundaries as a best-management practice. Vegetation management along overhead power line corridors is necessary for compliance with FERC license requirements, access for maintenance and inspection of the facilities, as well as to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition from the lines. Along the powerhouse hydraulic conveyance facilities (flumes, canals, and penstocks), vegetation removal is necessary for compliance with FERC license requirements, access for maintenance and inspection of the facilities, protection of the infrastructure, and to reduce the risk and impact of potential wildfires along the facilities.

The District solicited bids from eleven (11) contractors on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for the 2019 Bowman 60kV Transmission Line Vegetation Removal Project (Project) with a formal request for quotes (RFQ). The bid solicitation included a voluntary pre-bid job walk on August 13, 2019. The Project solicitation included seven (7) distinct segments of vegetation removal along the power transmission line easement corridor, which were identified by differences in underlying property ownership and/or topography. Only two contractors elected to attend the pre-bid job walk, and only those same two contractors submitted bids for the project work.

HELIX Environmental Construction Group (HELIX) was selected as the lowest responsive qualified contractor for the Project. The second bidder's cost proposal for the work scope segments was more than double the HELIX cost proposal. A breakdown of the bid results is provided in Table 1 below for information and reference.

**Table 1 - Project RFQ Bid Results**

	<b>HELIX</b>	<b>S&amp;S Tree Service</b>
Bid Option 1: Poles 5 - 8	\$ 17,600	\$ 40,000
Bid Option 2: Poles 15 - 19	\$ 21,300	\$ 50,500
Bid Option 3: Poles 28 - 42	\$ 62,800	\$ 85,550
Bid Option 4: Poles 54 - 58	\$ 17,300	\$ 67,500
Bid Option 5: Poles 58 - 67	\$ 21,300	\$ 42,000
Bid Option 6: Poles 67 - 76	\$ 17,000	\$ 40,000
Bid Option 7: Poles 129 - 134	\$ 20,400	\$ 55,000
Total Bid (All Segments)	\$ 177,700	\$ 380,550

A construction contract with HELIX was negotiated and executed on September 18, 2019 which included two priority segments (Options #3 and #7) of the Project. Only two segments of the Project were included in the Work Scope due to limitations on this year's available budget for the Bowman vegetation removal work. HELIX has been issued a Notice to Proceed with the Project and started work on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**ADDITIONAL WORK SCOPE:**

HELIX crews performed vegetation removal work along the Bowman 60kV transmission lines earlier this year (June & July) under a 2018 maintenance contract. District staff was impressed with the workmanship and professionalism of the HELIX crews during performance of this prior work scope. While in the area, Staff asked HELIX to provide a quote to perform vegetation maintenance work along the conveyance facilities (flumes, canals, and penstocks) for the Dutch Flat #2 and Chicago Park Powerhouses. This included a site visit to the facilities with the HELIX estimator and crew supervisor.

HELIX provided a quote proposal to provide additional vegetation management along the powerhouse conveyance facilities, as detailed in their August 23, 2019 Cost Estimate letter (attached). A breakdown of the additional work scope areas and costs is provided in Table 2 below:

**Table 2 – Additional Scope Cost Proposal**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Task 1 – Dutch Flat #2 Flume and Canal	\$ 30,600
Task 2 – Chicago Park Flume and Canal	\$ 24,600
Task 3 – Little York Basin	\$ 10,600
Task 4 – Chicago Park Powerhouse Penstock	\$ 21,900
Total Additional Scope Cost	\$ 87,700

The vegetation management work along the powerhouse conveyance facilities is necessary for ongoing inspection, infrastructure maintenance, compliance with FERC license conditions, and also for mitigation of wildland fire risk and impacts. Comprehensive vegetation removal along these facilities has not been performed for over a decade (other than spot hazard tree removal), and the sites are severely overgrown. Additional relevant information is listed below:

- HELIX has demonstrated their ability to perform requested vegetation management work to the satisfaction of the District.
- Based on the results of the recent RFQ for vegetation removal along the Bowman 60kV transmission line, HELIX has demonstrated their availability and cost is the current best value for this work.
- HELIX has provided a schedule to the District for performing this work with a target completion before the end of November 2019.
- The current, adopted Hydroelectric Maintenance budget has sufficient funds to cover the proposed additional work scope.
- District staff desires to complete this vegetation removal work this year in advance of winter storms.

Based on the above information, staff proposes adding the additional vegetation management work scope tasks to the current contract with HELIX as a Contract Amendment. This project supports Goal No. 1 of the District’s Strategic Plan by maintaining District assets to industry standards.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

The total value of this contract is \$170,900. The 2019 Hydroelectric Department budget includes \$135,000 of funds available identified for vegetation management. The remaining \$35,900 necessary to complete the work is available in the Hydroelectric Department Maintenance Budget. This proposal requires no additional funding allocations or transfers.

KSS  
MJW