



INTEROFFICE MEMO

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
Electric Division

TO: Commissioners Farmer, Brown, Cassidy, Cunningham, and Ernst
FROM: Ron Dyer
DATE: December 28, 2009
RE: Tree Pruning and Removal Services Contract

Issue Statement

This memo provides an overview of EWEB's tree program as it pertains to the utilization of a contract workforce and specific information regarding the results of the recent solicitation for tree pruning and removal services.

Background

For the past several years, EWEB has relied on contractors to accomplish tree pruning and removal work in the electric rights of way. The current five-year contract for these services is due to expire by March 31, 2010. In October 2009, staff issued a formal invitation to bid to establish a new five-year price agreement for these services. Wright Tree Service was determined to be the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Discussion

The PUC requires EWEB to perform line clearance activities on the vegetation around its distribution and transmission lines. In September 2006 they passed OAR 860-024-0016, which regulates minimum clearances that electric service providers can allow vegetation to encroach on power lines of all voltages.

Maintaining vegetation in the rights of way is also an important component of safety and reliability of service. Trees can be a significant source of service interruption and a potential public safety threat if not adequately maintained in the vicinity of high voltage lines. EWEB has approximately 572 miles of overhead distribution and 161 miles of transmission power lines. An inventory conducted in November and December 2008 found 52,000 trees and 10,000 units of brush that will require maintenance in the next four years. There is also tree work associated with certain capital projects. EWEB requires the services of a qualified utility line clearance tree pruning and removal contractor to maintain the areas around the lines and to assist with capital work.

There were four bids received and evaluated in the October 2009 solicitation. Wright Tree Service was determined to be the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. An estimated \$18 million over the five year period from 2010 to 2014 is needed to accomplish the work described above based on the rates provided by Wright Tree Service.

Options/Action

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with Wright Tree Service for Utility Line Clearance, Tree Pruning and Removal Services. Funds for these services were budgeted for 2010 and will be budgeted annually.

SIGNATURES:

Project Coordinator: _____

Supervisor: _____

Purchasing Manager: _____

Division Director: _____

General Manager: _____

Board Approval Date: _____

Secretary/Assistant Secretary verification: _____