

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Waiving Outside Competitive Solicitation Process - Sunset Boulevard Early Implementation Project]

Ordinance waiving the Administrative Code, Section 6.20(a), outside competitive solicitation requirement, and authorizing Public Works to perform the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s Sunset Boulevard Early Implementation Project with Public Works employees.

Existing Law

Administrative Code Section 6.20 requires that public work or improvements estimated to cost more than \$600,000 to be performed by outside contractors. Public work or improvements estimated to cost less than or equal to \$600,000 may be contracted to an outside contractor, or completed by City employees.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance will not amend or modify any provision of current law. Rather, the ordinance would waive the outside competitive solicitation process requirement under Administrative Code Section 6.20(a) for this specific project and authorize Public Works to take all steps necessary to complete the construction work associated with the Sunset Boulevard EIP with City employees.

Background Information

The Sunset Boulevard Early Implementation Project (“EIP”) is a green infrastructure improvement project funded by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (“SFPUC”). The project will provide low impact design (“LID”) stormwater management features to increase the ecological function of Sunset Boulevard and decrease the rate and volume of stormwater entering the City’s combined sewer system. The Sunset Boulevard EIP includes design and construction of green infrastructure rain gardens in the medians flanking the west side of Sunset Boulevard, beginning at Sloat Boulevard and extending north to Irving Street. The project improvements will also include sub-surface infiltration galleries. A total of 11 blocks (11 landscaped parcels) along Sunset Boulevard will receive green infrastructure improvements. The improvements are phased into a Pilot Phase (Vicente Street), as well as Phases I (Vicente Street to Wamona Street), II (Pacheco to Ulloa Streets), and III (Irving to Ortega Streets).

The SFPUC is completing the Sunset Boulevard EIP in partnership with San Francisco Public Works (“Public Works”). In addition to providing design services for the project, Public Works’ Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) division constructed the Pilot Phase of the project in order for

Public Works' operations crews to gain knowledge and understanding of the improvements and the project's future maintenance requirements. BUF completed the Pilot phase of the project on January 4, 2016.

During the Pilot Phase, Public Works and SFPUC held multiple "lessons-learned" sessions to analyze the design and construction of the project in order to refine the process and develop additional strategies for cost and time savings for implementation of future phases of the project. These "lessons-learned" sessions were particularly critical as Public Works would retain responsibility over ongoing maintenance of the EIP project green infrastructure.

Based on this experience with the Pilot Phase of the project, Public Works and the SFPUC determined that the best approach for implementation of the remainder of the EIP project would be for Public Works to provide construction labor and material procurement on behalf of the SFPUC. Both departments believe that this process will promote better coordination and collaboration between the departments and reduce the project delivery schedule and costs by:

- Substantially reducing field and/or implementation errors, conflicts, and duplication;
- Identifying opportunities for alternative construction methods resulting in cost savings;
- Allowing the construction work to take place concurrent with the phased project design work, providing flexibility in project scope changes with minimal increase in cost or potential decreases, and reducing the potential for costly change orders;
- Allowing Public Works BUF operations crews to get hands-on experience with the green infrastructure improvements, building capacity and reinforcing staff knowledge of the necessary maintenance requirements; and
- Eliminating the additional time and potential delay associated with advertising, bidding, and awarding the contract, and the contract certification process. Of the five other EIP projects that have been advertised by the City, one project received only one bid (which bid was over budget), and one received no bids at all.

Accordingly, Public Works seeks authorization to complete the Sunset EIP through its own forces using City employees for the construction work.