TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2005

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH DEL CONTE’S LANDSCAPING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $232,865 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EL CAMINO MEDIAN ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT PE-01013

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the attached contract with Del Conte’s Landscaping, Inc. (Attachment A) in the amount of $232,865 for construction of the El Camino Median Island Improvements Phase II Project - Capital Improvement Program Project PE-01013; and

2. Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute one or more change orders to the contract with Del Conte’s Landscaping, Inc. for related, additional but unforeseen work that may develop during the project, the total value of which shall not exceed $24,000.

BACKGROUND

Several of the median islands, planting strips and street trees along El Camino Real have fallen into disrepair as a result of water conservation during drought conditions, obsolete infrastructure systems and landscape plants and materials that have exceeded their useful life. Funding to address these issues was originally included in the 2001-2002 budget, and additional funding in the amount of $175,000 was generously contributed to the project budget by the local non-profit group “Trees for El Camino”. The Draft Master Schematic Design Plan for El Camino Real was completed in March 2003 after a joint effort between Caltrans, City staff and various public stakeholders. Construction of Phase I of the El Camino Median Island Improvements Project was completed in the spring of 2004 and incorporated the three medians located between Embarcadero Avenue to the north and Park Boulevard to the south.

DISCUSSION

Work to be performed under the Phase II contract will consist of planting, irrigation and landscape improvements to seven median islands located on El Camino Real between Park Boulevard to the north and Monroe Avenue to the south. Work will include demolition and removal of existing nonfunctional or obsolete irrigation equipment and plant material that is either in physical decline or not in conformance with the landscape element of the Draft Master Schematic Design Plan. Replacement and repair of deteriorating and broken pavement, curbing and signage within the medians is also included in the contract.
Bid Process
A notice inviting formal bids for the El Camino Median Island Improvements Phase II was posted at City Hall on August 30, 2005 and sent to nine builder’s exchanges and ten general contractors. The bidding period was 21 days and bids were received from eight qualified contractors on September 20, 2005 (see Attachment B for a summary of all bids received on the project). Bids ranged from a low of $232,865 to a high of $426,948.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Bid Process</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bid Name/Number IFB # 113310</td>
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<td>Proposed Length of Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Bids Mailed to Contractors</td>
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<td>No. of Bids Mailed to Builder’s Exchanges</td>
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<td>Total Days to Respond to Bid</td>
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<td>Pre-Bid Meeting?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Company Attendees at Pre-Bid</td>
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<td>Number of Bids Received:</td>
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<td>Bid Price Range</td>
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Staff has reviewed all bids submitted and recommends that the bid of $232,865 submitted by Del Conte’s Landscaping, Inc. be accepted and Del Conte’s Landscaping, Inc. be declared the lowest responsible bidder. The bid is 39 percent below the engineer's estimate of $379,000. The engineer’s estimate was based in part on bids received eighteen months ago for Phase One of the El Camino Median Island Improvements Project, and the relatively low bids reflect a more competitive environment among local contractors at this time. The contractor has expressed confidence in the bid and that the project will be constructed as specified, and the City will benefit from the cost savings that are realized as a result. The contingency amount of $24,000, which equals 10% percent of the total contract, is requested to resolve unforeseen problems and/or conflicts that may arise during the construction period. Staff checked with the Contractor's State License Board and found that the contractor has an active license on file. Staff also checked references supplied by the contractor for previous work performed, including several projects for the City of Palo Alto, and found no significant complaints. The required Certification of Nondiscrimination is included as Attachment C.

RESOURCE IMPACT
Funds for Phase II of this project are included in the FY 2005-2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.

PROJECT REVIEW
This project was reviewed and approved by the Planning, Community Services Departments and Caltrans.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The proposed El Camino Median Island Renovation project is consistent with existing City policies, including the Draft El Camino Real Master Schematic Design Plan.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
This project is exempt as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15301.

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment A:  Contract
Attachment B:  Bid Summary
Attachment C:  Certificate of Non-Discrimination

PREPARED BY:  
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DEPARTMENT HEAD:  
GLENN S. ROBERTS
Director of Public Works

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:  
FRANK BENEST
City Manager