



Information Item

Date: August 30, 2012

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, Director of Finance
Subject: Update on Citywide Car Washing Purchase Order

Introduction

The City contracts with private companies to provide car washing services for the City fleet. In previous years, various departments and divisions have purchased car washing services separately. Additionally, there have been various allegations of significant labor violations at car washes within the City. On May 22, 2012, Council directed staff to evaluate potential providers of vehicle washing services for their compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to wages and working conditions prior to signing any agreements or purchase orders for such services. Council also further directed staff to continue to monitor the car wash industry to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.

Discussion

In order to ensure that the City obtains the best pricing and services, the Purchasing Section conducted a citywide bid for car wash services. Departments submitted their estimated annual usage and performance requirements and specifications which were included in the Request for Bids. As part of the specifications, the bidders were required to abide by all local, regional, state and federal laws. On June 13, 2012, the City issued a Request for Bids for Citywide Car Washing Services. All local Santa Monica car washing businesses were notified and invited to submit a bid. The bids were due on June 22, 2012. Three vendors submitted bids, one declined to bid.

Each bid was reviewed based on the criteria outlined in Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 2.24.072. Lincoln Blvd. Car Wash, the second lowest monetary bidder, was selected as the best bidder based on the character, integrity, reputation, judgment, training, experience and efficiency of the bidder. Other car washes that responded either had long-standing environmental compliance issues or had active labor code investigations.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to monitor Lincoln Blvd. Car Wash to ensure that they do not have labor, environmental or other violations of federal, state or local law. If they are found to be in violation of labor or environmental laws, the City has the right to cancel the Purchase Order and seek new bids to provide car wash services. The City Attorney's Office will continue with its ongoing investigations of the car washes for their working conditions and labor violations.

Prepared By: Araceli Esparza, Purchasing Services Manager