



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 17, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Brigitte Price, Administrative Specialist

DATE: July 10, 2024

TITLE: **Award a Contract for the 2024 Timber Harvest (Logging & Log Hauling) to Ford Logging, Inc. (dba Pacific Earthscape) in the Amount of \$335/Thousand Board Feet (MBF) for Logging, \$116/MBF for Trucking to Korbek, California, and \$187/MBF for Trucking to Piercy; and \$47,000 for the Replacement of One Bridge and Repair of One Road Crossing; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council award a contract for the 2024 Timber Harvest (Logging & Log Hauling) to Ford Logging, Inc. (dba Pacific Earthscape) in the amount of \$335/Thousand Board Feet (MBF) for logging, \$116/MBF to Korbek, California, and \$187/MBF for trucking to Piercy; and \$47,000 for the replacement of one bridge and repair of one road crossing; and authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

From May 15 to June 28, 2024, the City invited Licensed Timber Operators to bid on selection logging and trucking of approximately 400 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber from the City's Arcata Community Forest, Jacoby Creek Tract, Section 30, T5N, R2E HB&M.

DISCUSSION:

On June 28, one (1) sealed bid was received from a qualified Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) as follows:

Contractor Name:	Bid Amount: Logging
Ford Logging Inc. dba Pacific Earthscape	\$335/MBF

Contractor Name:	Bid Amount: Trucking
Ford Logging Inc. dba Pacific Earthscape	\$96/MBF to Arcata, CA; \$116/MBF to Korbek; \$187/MBF to Piercy; and \$140/MBF to Alton

Pacific Earthscape is recommended for the project award. Pacific Earthscape has the equipment and prior experience needed to perform the harvest, attended the non-mandatory show-me trip to the planned harvest location and understands the City's management goals. Pacific Earthscape has performed well for the City on past logging contracts. Based upon projected log volumes to be delivered to the various sawmills, the total logging contract cost is expected to be in the range of **\$247,635**. The City Council will also consider the award of timber sale bids at the July 17, 2024, City Council meeting.

Log delivery destinations are determined by species. Two sawmill destinations will be necessary for this year's operation. The logger will be required to sort logs on the landings by species not by diameter. Loggers are paid based on gross volume delivered scaled in thousand board feet or MBF units.

Execution of the contract will be contingent upon several factors common to City timber harvest projects: 1) completion of a Notice of Timber Operations and 2) approval of the 2024 spotted owl report and Notice of Timber Operations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed timber harvest is consistent with the City's Forest Management Plan and included in City's Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan 1-99NTMP-033HUM. The operation covers approximately 24 acres within the Jacoby Creek Tract of the Arcata Community Forest. Logs will be hauled out of the Jacoby Creek Tract via Fickle Hill Road. This operation will thin homogenous stands of younger conifers setting the area on an accelerated trajectory towards older stand structure. The goal of the operation is to increase terrestrial carbon stocking over time and manage to create a resilient forest by thinning overstocked areas, removing excess fuels, and growing larger trees. The operation also provides an opportunity to improve legacy roadway issues to reduce risk of sediment inputs to Jacoby Creek.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

The Forest Management Committee has been kept apprised of the upcoming 2024 timber sale at recent Committee meetings and will review the details contained in the draft timber harvest Notice of Timber Operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

The timber harvest is consistent with the City's Forest Management Plan. The area planned for timber harvest is included in the City's Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) 1-99NTMP-033HUM. The Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan is the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The project bid price is within expectations for the Forest Fund 205 activity budget #87.