



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Brigitte Price, Administrative Specialist

DATE: May 08, 2023

TITLE: **Award a Contract for the 2023 Timber Harvest (Logging & Trucking) to George Huffman DBA Northern Roads & Timber for the Amounts of: \$300 per Thousand Board Feet (MBF) for Logging; \$91/MBF for Logs Hauled to Arcata; \$136.80/MBF for Logs Hauled to Scotia; and \$106/MBF for Logs Hauled to Either Samoa, Eureka, or Korbel; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council award a contract for the 2023 Timber Harvest (Logging & Trucking) to George Huffman DBA Northern Roads & Timber for the amounts of: \$300 per Thousand Board Feet (MBF) for logging; \$91/MBF for logs hauled to Arcata; \$136.80/MBF for logs hauled to Scotia; and \$106/MBF for logs hauled to either Samoa, Eureka, or Korbel; and authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

From March 20 to April 24, 2023, the City solicited bids from Licensed Timber Operators (LTO's) for logging and trucking a selection of approximately 600 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber from the City's Arcata Community Forest, Jacoby Creek Tract, Section 24, T5N, R1E HB&M.

DISCUSSION:

Three sealed bids from LTO's were received before the deadline on April 24, two of which were deemed responsive; they were as follows:

Contractor Name:	Bid Amount: Logging
Trinity Timber, Inc.	\$325/MBF
George Huffman DBA Northern Roads & Timber	\$300/MBF

Contractor Name:	Bid Amount: Trucking
Trinity Timber, Inc.	\$75/MBF to Arcata, CA; \$142/MBF to Scotia; \$92/MBF to Samoa; \$90/MBF to Eureka/Samoa; and \$90/MBF to Korbel
George Huffman DBA Northern Roads & Timber	\$91/MBF to Arcata, CA; \$136/MBF to Scotia; \$106/MBF Samoa; \$106/MBF to Eureka/Samoa; and \$106/MBF to Korbel

Northern Roads & Timber is recommended for the contract award. Northern Roads & Timber has the equipment and 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. Based on log volumes projected to be delivered to the various sawmills, the total logging contract cost is expected to be in the range of \$258,230. The City Council will consider the award of timber sale bids at the next regular meeting on June 7, 2023, after which the trucking destinations will be finalized with the awarded LTO.

Log delivery destinations are determined by species. Two sawmill destinations will likely 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 timber harvest projects; they include: 1) completion and submittal of a Notice of Timber Operations (NTO), 2) CALFIRE approval of the City’s submitted NTO and 2023 spotted owl report, and 3) approval of a Substantial Deviation amending the area proposed for timber harvest into the City’s Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) 1-99NTMP-033HUM. The NTMP amendment approval is anticipated later this summer.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed timber harvest is consistent with the City’s Forest Management Plan and is currently being amended into the City’s Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan 1-99NTMP-033HUM. The operation covers approximately 85 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 overly dense homogenous stands of young 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 erosion issues to reduce risk of sediment inputs to Jacoby Creek.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

The Forest Management Committee has reviewed this proposed timber harvest.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

The timber harvest is consistent with the City’s Forest Management Plan. The area planned for harvest is currently being amended into the City’s NTMP 1-99NTMP-033HUM through a Substantial Deviation. NTMP amendment approval is anticipated later this summer. The NTMP is the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The project bid price is within expectations for the Forest activity budget #87. A budget adjustment will add these anticipated logging contractor expenses and revenue from the corresponding timber

sale to the current fiscal year 2022/23 budget in order to finalize contracts though the harvest work is anticipated to occur in fiscal year 2023/24.