



Meeting Date: June 6, 2016

Consent Docket Item: 2-b

Report No.: SUA-16-30

Department: Electric Utility

Subject: High Voltage Line Clearance Tree Trimming and Tree Removal Services

Budget Impact: The FY16 adopted budget includes adequate funding to cover the recommended expenditures.

Prior Council Action or Part of an Approved Project: Yes

Related Items: [SUA 14-31](#)

Alternatives:

- 1) Solicit competitive bids for the services. Asplundh's 3-year prices are very competitive and their service has been satisfactory. Soliciting competitive bids would unlikely yield better results.
- 2) Do not continue the program. Non-continuance of the program would have a significant negative impact on the reliability of the electric distribution system.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Trustees approve a one year extension of the Asplundh tree trimming contract, authorize expenditures for the base contract services up to \$601,200 (year 3 bid amount) and authorize additional expenditures up to \$25,000 for disposal fees and up to \$50,000 for emergency and extra work.

Prepared by: Vernon Hall, Electric Distribution Superintendent

Background Information: The SUA contracts for tree trimming and removal services around overhead electric lines and requires the contractor to follow the ANSI A300 standard for tree, shrub, and other woody plant maintenance. However, the SUA is not responsible for and does not trim around service drops to houses. Service drops to houses are typically located over private property (not within a utility easement) and therefore, the trimming around the service drops is the responsibility of the property owner.

High voltage line clearance tree trimming and tree removal services have traditionally been bid on a three year cycle with a provision to extend the contract on an annual basis for up to three years. The first year of the most recent three year bid was awarded by the Trustees on June 23, 2014 to Asplundh Tree Expert Company.