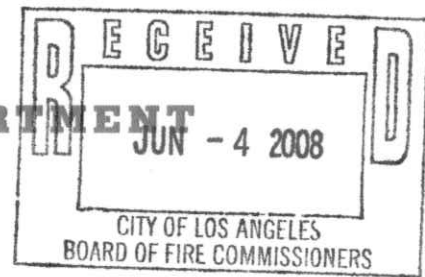


JUN 17 2008

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



DOUGLAS L. BARRY
FIRE CHIEF



June 3, 2008

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 08-021 S1

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Douglas L. Barry, Fire Chief *DS*

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE BOARD REPORT 08-021 – WEED AND
REFUSE ABATEMENT CONTRACTORS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Recommendations: That the Board:

1. Approve award of an agreement to Equery, Inc (Econo Tree Care) to be added to the list of authorized Weed and Refuse Abatement Contractors for Fiscal Year 2008-09.
2. Direct the Commission Executive Assistant to forward the contractual agreement to the Mayor's Office for review and approval in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3.

Summary:

The Fire Department released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in November 2007, to establish a list of qualified individuals with sufficient crews, equipment, experience and required Contractors State licenses or certificates. An orientation was held on December 19, 2007, at which time each interested candidate was given the Contractor Responsibility Questionnaire (CRO) to answer and return the completed questionnaire to the Fire Department by January 3, 2008.

After careful review of the answers given by the candidates on the CRO questionnaire, the Fire Department selected 18 candidates to be Weed and Refuse Abatement Contractors. The Board Report was approved on February 19, 2008 (attached). As a requirement, those candidates not selected to participate in the Brush Clearance Program were provided a debriefing session. These debriefing sessions should have occurred prior to the initial award of contracts, however, due to an oversight, these debriefing sessions occurred afterwards. Actions have been taken by the Fire Prevention Bureau to ensure such oversight does not occur in the future. The purpose of the debriefing session is to provide the candidates an opportunity to review their submission with Fire Department personnel and discuss the Fire Department's selection process and criteria.

Findings:

William Jones, Senior Management Analyst II, and other members of the Fire Department, met with the four companies that were not selected. Together they discussed the selection criteria point-by-point and were shown how the Fire Department arrived at the decisions to not award a contract to their company. Three of the four companies agreed that they did not have the requisite experience required by the Fire Department. However, one company, Equery, Inc (Eccono Tree Care), did have the requisite experience. After a careful review of the information provided by the company's owner, Mr Ori Zairi, it was determined that Mr. Zairi did not fully understand the requirements that were initially needed for review along with the documentation to his company's work history. Upon further review and after receiving the appropriate information and work history, members of the Brush Clearance Section made a determination that Mr. Zairi did indeed have the requisite experience the Fire Department was seeking in Weed and Refuse Abatement Contractors.

Conclusion:

Following the appeal of all companies not selected for the FY2008-09 Weed and Refuse Abatement season, the Fire Department identified one additional company that does meet the requirements of the program as defined in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued in November 2007. The Department would like to add Equery, Inc. (Eccono Tree Care) to the list of 18 contractors previously submitted to the Board of Fire Commissioners dated February 11, 2008. The agreement will commence on July 1, 2008, and terminate on June 30, 2009. The agreement may be amended to amend the term for two additional one-year terms.

The Fire Department has determined that Weed Refuse and Abatement Contractors are essential to the success of the Brush Clearance Program.

Board report prepared by Robert Knight, Captain II, and Kathy Dade, Management Analyst I, Brush Clearance Unit.