



Date: September 4, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin Williams, Public Works Director
Subject: "Rain Catchers" Contract with Biohabitats, Inc. for Design and Construction Oversight Professional Services

Executive Summary

The City of Durham is contracting with Biohabitats, Inc. to implement a portion of the Rain Catchers grant project. Biohabitats will provide construction drawings for the Low Impact Development (LID) practices of rain gardens and tree plantings and will provide construction oversight services.

Recommendation

The administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Biohabitats for design and construction oversight services for Rain Catchers for an amount not to exceed \$53,453.00.

Background

The City was awarded a Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant for the Rain Catchers LID Retrofit project in 2011. Rain Catchers will help restore the headwaters of South Ellerbe Creek, a tributary of Ellerbe Creek and Falls Lake. This area includes much of Ninth Street and the surrounding residential areas (e.g., Old West Durham). The project will apply multiple practices to residential development and assess the relative acceptance by homeowners of each practice within an economically diverse area. The project will employ four residential practices: rain gardens, cisterns, trees, and downspout disconnections. The City Council approved the Rain Catchers grant project on 12/5/2011.

The City has identified 160 homeowners within the project area to participate in Rain Catchers. Each property is being assessed for its suitability for the LID practices. Biohabitats will provide drawings and bid documents for the construction phase of the project. They will oversee construction contractors and conduct final inspections.

A Request for Proposals was posted on the City of Durham's website from May 1, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Eight proposals were received. A committee of five people reviewed and scored the proposals. The proposal submitted by Biohabitats received the highest score.

Alternatives

The alternative is to deny authorization to negotiate and execute the professional services contract. As a result, the Rain Catchers project would end and \$242,811 in grant funds from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund would be forfeited.

Financial Impact

The City of Durham will pay Biohabitats \$53,453.00 from the Public Works Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan project budget (Organization code 4300L060 Object code 728600 Project code LCW12). The grant project ordinance is #14209.

SDBE Summary

The Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department reviewed the Request for Proposals and all proposals received to ensure compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting. There were no SBDE goals for this project. The SDBE report is provided as an attachment.

Attachments

Copy of Contract
SDBE Summary Report