



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 23-0289A, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Award of bid to Rick Richards, Inc. for mechanical thinning of vegetation on Parks and Conservation Resources properties.

### **Recommended Action:**

Award of bid and execution of the agreement with Rick Richards, Inc. for mechanical thinning of vegetation on Parks and Conservation Resources properties.

- This contract provides the Department of Parks and Conservation Resources restoration of overgrown natural communities in County preserves, parks, and management areas via mechanical thinning on an as needed basis.
- Rick Richards, Inc. is recommended for award as the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder with an estimated average annual expenditure of \$464,750.00 and a twenty-four-month total contract expenditure of \$929,500.00 (base bid amount \$845,000.00, plus 10% contingency \$84,500.00).
- This contract has provision for two additional twenty-four-month extension periods. Extension periods provide for a price increase in the amount not to exceed the average of the Consumer Price Index or 5%, whichever is less.
- This contract replaces expiring Contract No. 167-0246-B. Pricing has increased 13% in comparison to the prior contract.
- This agreement is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Adopted Budget, proposed FY24 Budget and will likely be incorporated during FY25 budget development.

Contract No. 22-0678-B in the estimated average annual expenditure of \$464,750.00 for a twenty-four-month total contract expenditure of \$929,500.00; Authorize the Chairman to sign and the Clerk of the Circuit Court to attest.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Practice Superior Environmental Stewardship

3.2 Preserve and manage environmental Pinellas County Preserves, Parks, and Management Areas

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

### **Summary:**

This contract will restore the biodiversity and reduce the high fuel loads in natural communities using mechanical thinning. Mechanical thinning will also reduce wildfire danger and allow these areas to be prescribed burned under safer conditions to maintain the vegetative biodiversity which will provide a healthy habitat for resident wildlife. Areas that cannot be prescribed burned safely may be maintained through future mechanical treatments.

**Background Information:**

On October 10, 2022, the Purchasing Division, on behalf of the Parks and Conservation Resources, released an invitation to bid for Mechanical Thinning of Vegetation on PCR Properties. Bid opening occurred on November 22, 2022, with two bids received, and Rick Richards, Inc. recommended for award as the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder. Final agreement negotiations occurred on February 8, 2023, and insurance compliance on February 16, 2023.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The anticipated fiscal impact of this two-year contract is a total not-to-exceed sum of \$929,500.00 (Attachment I, Section 6, pg. 3), payable on a fixed-fee basis outlined in the Payment Schedule (Attachment I, Exhibit C, pg. 21), upon invoice submittal. This agreement is included in the FY23 Adopted Budget, the proposed FY24 Budget, and will be incorporated during FY25 budget development. The annual expenditure has increased 13.0%, in comparison to the prior contract (Contract No. 167-0246-B). However, no negative budgetary impacts are anticipated.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Paul Cozzie, Director, Parks and Conservation Resources  
Merry Celeste, Division Director, Purchasing & Risk, Administrative Services  
Joe Lauro, Director, Administrative Services

**Partners:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Standard Services Agreement  
Bid Tabulation Summary