



City Council AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 05/01/2023

AGENDA OF: 05/09/2023

DEPARTMENT: City Manager

SUBJECT: Pogonip Encampment Closure Refuse Disposal and Abatement Contract Approval (CM)

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement, in a form to be approved by the City Attorney, between the City of Santa Cruz and Clean Team Associates in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to remove encampment debris in the Pogonip.

BACKGROUND: The Pogonip recreational area nearest Highway 9 and Golf Club Drive has become an extremely large homeless encampment over the last several months. Over time, the camp has significantly increased in size, growing into an environmental crisis that presents a significant threat to public safety, health and welfare. Closure of the encampment and restoring it to its natural habitat will begin in late May.

DISCUSSION: The encampment located in the Pogonip area presents a significant threat to public safety, health and welfare. Environmental degradation is occurring in the hillside, and encampment-related pollution is directly impacting adjacent environmentally sensitive habitats. In addition, the specific location is considered a high fire risk location requiring the Santa Cruz Fire Department to conduct hazard mitigation by conducting a vegetation management program this summer prior to fire season.

The challenge of the steep terrain makes it extremely unsafe for police to conduct enforcement activities, and for the Fire Department to respond to emergency calls for service, including fires. Furthermore, City staff do not feel safe working in and around the Pogonip without a police escort.

To effectuate the clean-up, staff requested proposals from refuse disposal contractors. Staff received 3 bids, and is recommending authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Clean Team Associates in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds to support the clean up of the refuse, and dispose of the hazardous materials will be from the California homelessness response \$14 million grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

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City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:
None