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May 28, 2026

West Coast Arborist, Inc.
Mr. Patrick Mahoney
President
2200 E Via Burten Street
Anaheim, CA 92806

Subject: Bid Protest Response – 2026-2028 Tree Maintenance

This letter is in response to your bid protest letter dated May 8, 2026. In your letter, you indicated that the low bidder's submittal did not meet the mandatory minimum qualifications required under the contract documents; therefore, the low bidder should not be awarded the contract. Below are your specific items of concern that Elite Maintenance & Tree Services (Elite) lack the required:

1. Minimum two (2) years of experience performing municipal/public agency tree inventories;
2. Experience developing urban forest inventory databases;
3. Experience maintaining GIS-compatible tree inventory systems; and
4. Completion of comprehensive tree inventory database projects for at least two California cities.

Staff conducted a thorough evaluation of the low bidder, Elite, in order to determine if they do indeed meet the minimum qualifications required under the contract documents. The City contacted multiple references provided by Elite to verify their experience. The references consisted of public agencies, in California, that confirmed Elite has maintained their tree inventories for more than two years on a GIS-compatible system.

In addition, Staff met with Elite, where they provided a clear demonstration of their tree care management software, showing the actual databases being used for multiple agencies (in California). The meeting confirmed that the software they use is capable of collecting the required data specified in the contract documents.

Based on this evaluation, Staff is recommending that City Council reject the protest submitted by West Coast Arborist, and awarding the contract to Elite.

Sincerely,

Alice Bernardino