

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 11, 2025

PREPARED BY: Casey Arndt, Deputy Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: REJECT ALL PROPOSALS FOR STORM DRAIN AND STORMWATER CHANNEL CLEAN UP AND QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE SERVICES (PROJECT NO. MDR00004)

RECOMMENDATION:

Reject all bid proposals submitted under Request for Proposal No. 2025-RFP-219 for Storm Drain and Stormwater Channel Clean Up and Quarterly Maintenance Services

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On October 9, 2025, the Public Works Streets and Fleet Division issued Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 2025-RFP-219 seeking qualified contractors to provide storm drain and stormwater channel clean up and quarterly maintenance services. The scope of work included, but was not limited to:

- **Debris Removal:** Remove and properly dispose of trash, organic material, and debris obstructing water flow within channels and along perimeter walls.
- **Weed and Vegetation Control:** Clear weeds, overgrowth, and vegetation inside the channel and along perimeter walls to maintain clear water conveyance.
- **Sediment Removal:** Excavate, remove, and dispose of accumulated sediment, silt, and other deposits restricting drainage.
- **Perimeter and Wall Cleaning:** Remove vegetation and debris along channel walls and edges to prevent buildup and maintain proper flow.
- **Full Channel Coverage:** Perform clean up and maintenance across both concrete-lined and earthen channel sections.

Storm drain and channel maintenance has historically been performed in-house by City staff. Following the significant storm impacts from Hurricane Hilary, the City utilized its On-Call Repairs for Public Streets and Spaces contract (Project No. SST00001, Contract No. C49090) to supplement staff capacity. This on-call contract provided support on an as-needed basis for emergency cleanup and to address backlogs created by increased storm-related workload.

The purpose of the RFP was to evaluate whether establishing a dedicated, standalone contract for these maintenance activities would be cost-effective and beneficial for long-term operations - particularly during periods of heavy storm activity or when additional support may be required.

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After reviewing the submitted proposals, staff determined that:

- All bids substantially exceeded the approved project budget, making a standalone contracted maintenance program cost-prohibitive.
- The City has completed key equipment replacements and additions that restore the Division's ability to perform these routine maintenance activities in-house.
- Continuing this work internally allows the City to maintain service levels without incurring significant contracted costs.

For these reasons, staff recommend rejecting bids and returning routine storm drain and stormwater channel maintenance activities to City crews, utilizing the on-call contract only as needed for emergencies or overflow conditions.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with rejecting the bid proposals.