Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
One Gateway Plaza
3rd Floor Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

Metro

Board Report

File #: 2026-0711, **File Type:** Contract **Agenda Number:** 25.

**OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 19, 2026**

SUBJECT: HERBICIDE APPLICATION SERVICES FOR BUS AND RAIL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND FACILITIES

ACTION: AWARD CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION

AUTHORIZE the Chief Executive Officer to award a firm fixed unit rate contract, Contract No. OP1417810008370, to Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., to provide herbicide application services systemwide for a Not-To-Exceed (NTE) amount of $992,879 for the three-year base period, $346,525 for option year one, and $362,669 for option year two, for a total NTE amount of $1,702,073, effective February 1, 2027, subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

ISSUE

The existing contract for herbicide application services expires January 31, 2027. To continue providing these critical services, ensuring safe operations within Metro Rights-of-Ways (ROWs) and facilities, and compliance with Federal, State and Local codes and requirements, a new herbicide application services contract award is required effective February 1, 2027.

BACKGROUND

At its June 2021 meeting, the Board awarded a five-year, firm fixed unit rate Contract No. OP69327-20008370 to Conejo Crest Landscape, Inc. dba Conejo Crest Landscape Management, to provide herbicide application services systemwide. Effective November 30, 2024, Conejo Crest was acquired by Parkwood Landscape Maintenance, Inc.

Under the existing contract, herbicide application services are performed throughout ~195 miles of active and inactive Metro-owned Rights-of-Way (ROWs), and 117 bus and rail facilities. During the contract term, services were expanded to include new expansion projects for the K Line (Crenshaw/LAX), Rail to Rail (R2R), Metro Transit Center (LAX/MTC), and A-Line (Blue) Extension to Pomona.

DISCUSSION

Regular herbicide application services are essential for Metro facilities and ROWs to ensure compliance with Federal, State and local codes and requirements, reduce the threat of fires, maintain proper visibility of signals for safe transit operations, prevent wheel slippage, and allow for proper inspection and maintenance with safe and reliable operations. On March 19, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors suspended the use of glyphosate-based herbicides by County departments and their contractors. Concurrently, Metro discontinued the use of glyphosate-based products under its herbicide application services contract and substituted it with glyphosate-free products approved by Metro's Corporate Safety Department.

Two amendments were issued for this solicitation. Amendment No. 1 revised the Scope of Services to update the option term to two one-year options. Amendment No. 2 clarified that the prime contractor and/or subcontractor performing the work must have at least five years of licensed experience and that annual values across multiple contracts may be combined to meet the qualification requirements.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

The approval of this item will ensure the continuity of safe and timely herbicide application services, compliance with Federal, State and local municipal codes and ordinances, and meet Metro maintenance standards while providing a proactive approach for service delivery.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of $157,731 for herbicide application for the remainder of FY27 is included under cost center 8370 - Facilities Contracted Maintenance Services, account 50308, Service Contract Maintenance, under various projects.

Since this is a multi-year contract, the cost center manager and Deputy Chief Operations Officer, Shared Mobility, will be accountable for budgeting the cost in FY27 and future years.

Impact to Budget

The current source of funds for this action are Federal, State and local funds, which are eligible for rail and bus operating expenses.

EQUITY PLATFORM

This contracted weed abatement using herbicide application service supports equity by helping ensure that all Metro facilities and ROWs remain clean, safe, and accessible for all patrons. Timely removal of invasive weeds along Metro facilities and ROWs preserves the structural integrity and functionality of transit infrastructure while minimizing service disruptions, allowing walkways, platforms, and access points to remain safe, clear, and navigable for people with disabilities, older adults, and other riders who depend on them. Overgrown or unmanaged vegetation can obscure safety signage, block sightlines, create trip hazards, and delay transit operations, disrupting travel and creating severe accessibility challenges for customers relying on these facilities. Herbicide application services enhance Metro staff and patrons' experience while utilizing Metro's facilities and

transit system. This is especially critical in Equity Focus Communities, where individuals often depend on public transportation as their primary means of travel.

This contract solicitation was subject to the Small Business Set-Aside program and open to certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms only. Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., a Metro-certified SBE contractor made a 30% SBE commitment as the Prime, meeting the Small Business Prime Set-Aside requirements established for this solicitation.

The State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) prevailing wage requirements and the Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy (LW/SCWRP) are applicable to this contract.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED OUTCOME

VMT and VMT per capita in Los Angeles County are lower than national averages, the lowest in the SCAG region, and on the lower end of VMT per capita statewide, with these declining VMT trends due in part to Metro's significant investment in rail and bus transit.* Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets align with California's statewide climate goals, including achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. To ensure continued progress, all Board items are assessed for their potential impact on VMT.

As part of these ongoing efforts, this item is expected to contribute to further reductions in VMT. While this item does not directly encourage taking transit, sharing a ride, or using active transportation, it is a vital part of Metro operations, as it will maintain and protect Metro assets from deterioration and service interruption. Because the Metro Board has adopted an agency-wide VMT Reduction Target, and this item supports the overall function of the agency, this item is consistent with the goals of reducing VMT.

*Based on population estimates from the United States Census and VMT estimates from Caltrans' Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data between 2001-2019.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This Board action supports Strategic Goal 5: Provide responsive, accountable, and trustworthy governance within the Metro organization. Performing regular weed abatement using herbicide application services contributes to facilities' overall cleanliness and will ensure providing safe, clean environment for our patrons, service reliability and enhancing customers' experience.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board may elect not to approve this recommendation. This option is not recommended as it would result in a gap in service, impacting Metro's system safety, cleanliness, and customer experience.

With the completion of a financial-based insourcing study based on quantitative and qualitative

assessment, staff has analyzed insourcing/outsourcing options for weed abatement using herbicide application services, among other services. Based on initial findings, herbicide application services were not recommended for insourcing as this action does not meet the study's qualitative budgetary objectives. Providing this service in-house would require the hiring and training of additional personnel, the acquisition of additional equipment, vehicles, and supplies to support the expanded responsibility. Staff's assessment indicates that this is not a cost-effective option for Metro.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, staff will execute Contract No. OP1417810008370, with Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., effective February 1, 2027, to provide the necessary herbicide application services system-wide.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Procurement Summary
Attachment B - DEOD Summary

Prepared by: R. Cardenas, Senior Director, Facilities Contracted Maintenance Services
L. Babayan, Executive Officer, Operations Administration
S. Gota, Deputy Chief Operations Officer (Interim), Shared Mobility
D. Avila, Deputy Chief Vendor/Contract Management Officer

Reviewed by: M. Antonelli, Chief Vendor/Contract Management Officer
C. Cheung, Chief Operations Officer

Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer

PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

HERBICIDE APPLICATION SERVICES FOR BUS AND RAIL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND FACILITIES/OP1417810008370

1.	**Contract Number**: OP1417810008370	
2.	**Recommended Vendor**: Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc.	
3.	**Type of Procurement (check one):** ☒ **IFB** ☐ **RFP** ☐ **RFP–A&E** ☐ **Non-Competitive** ☐ **Modification** ☐ **Task Order**	
4.	**Procurement Dates** :	
	A. Issued: 5/19/26	
	B. Advertised/Publicized: 5/19/2026	
	C. Pre-Bid Conference: 5/26/2026	
	D. Bids Due: 6/24/2026	
	E. Pre-Qualification Completed: 8/7/2026	
	F. Ethics Declaration Forms Submitted to Ethics: 6/24/2026	
	G. Protest Period End Date: 11/24/2026	
5.	**Solicitations Downloaded**: 19	**Bids Received**: 1
6.	**Contract Administrator**: Misty Atalanta Alderaan	**Telephone Number**: (213)922-7673
7.	**Project Manager**: Sally Eslava	**Telephone Number**: (213)922-5914

A. Procurement Background

This Board Action is to approve the award of Contract No. OP1417810008370 to support the Herbicide Application Services for Bus and Rail Rights-Of-Way (ROW) and Facilities project. Board approval of contract awards is subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. OP141781 was issued on May 19, 2026, in accordance with Metro's Acquisition Policy as a Small Business Prime Set-Aside, and the contract type is firm fixed unit rate.

Two (2) amendments were issued during the solicitation phase of this IFB:

- Amendment No. 1, issued on June 2, 2026, revised the scope of services.
- Amendment No. 2, issued on June 11, 2026, revised the minimum qualifications requirements.

A total of 19 firms downloaded the IFB and were included in the planholders' list. A virtual pre-bid conference was held on May 26, 2026, and was attended by 1 firm. There were 4 questions received for this IFB and responses were provided prior to the bid due date.

One bid was received by the due date of June 24, 2026, from: Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc.

Staff conducted a market survey of firms on the planholders' list to determine why no other bids were received. One respondent cited lack of required experience with similar contracts. The single firm that attended the pre-bid conference reported they did not possess the required licensure to perform the work. The last survey respondent stated they did not have time to prepare an offer. The results of the market survey indicated that there were no unduly restrictive elements in the solicitation documents that prevented competition.

B. Evaluation of Bids

This procurement was conducted in accordance and complies with LACMTA's Acquisition Policy for a competitive sealed bid. The single bidder, Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc.'s bid was evaluated to determine responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Areas of responsiveness included meeting all listed minimum qualifications, such as specific years of herbicide experience, a current Agricultural Pest Control Advisor license, a California Qualified Applicator License (Category E for weed control), and proof of ownership for required equipment.

Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc. was determined to be responsive, responsible and met all the minimum requirements of the IFB.

C. Price Analysis

The recommended bid price from Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc. has been determined to be fair and reasonable based on price analysis, fact finding, and technical evaluation. The contractor's bid of $1,702,073.92 is $263,656.55 (18.3%) higher than the Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) of $1,438,417.37.

Bidder Name	Metro ICE	Bid Amount
Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc.	$1,438,417.37	$1,702,073.92

The ICE was calculated using existing per unit costs which were escalated moderately to account for inflation; however, the per unit costs submitted as part of the bid were higher than anticipated across all categories leading to a cumulative difference of $263,656.55.

D. Background on Recommended Contractor

Far East Landscape and Maintenance, Inc., founded in 1996, specializes in providing professional landscaping services. They have supported Metro as a subcontractor for Tunnel Washing and other projects. Reference checks confirm a strong history of positive past performance with no reported deficiencies. Overall, Far East Landscape & Maintenance Inc. has demonstrated an ability to satisfactorily complete projects in a timely manner.

DEOD SUMMARY

HERBICIDE APPLICATION SERVICES FOR BUS AND RAIL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND FACILITIES/OP1417810008370

A. Small Business Participation

This procurement was subject to the Small Business (SB) Prime (Set-Aside) program and was open to SBE Certified Small Businesses only. Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., an SBE Prime, is performing 30% of the work with its own workforce. Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc. listed one non-SBE subcontractor to perform on this contract.

SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE

	SBE Prime Contractor	SBE % Committed
1.	Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc. (Prime)	30%
	Total SBE Commitment	30%

B. Living Wage Service Contract Worker Retention Policy Applicability

The Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy (LW/SCWRP) is applicable to this contract. Metro staff will monitor and enforce the policy guidelines to ensure that applicable workers are paid at minimum, the current Living Wage rate of $26.56 per hour ($20.45 base + $6.09 health benefits), including yearly increases. The increase may be up to 3% of the total wage, annually. In addition, contractors will be responsible for submitting the required reports for the Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy and other related documentation to staff to determine overall compliance with the policy.

C. Prevailing Wage Applicability

Prevailing Wage requirements are applicable to this project. DEOD will monitor contractors' compliance with the State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), California Labor Code, and, if federally funded, the U S Department of Labor (DOL) Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA).

D. Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy (PLA/CCP)

Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy is not applicable to this Contract. PLA/CCP is applicable only to construction contracts that have a construction related value in excess of $2.5 million.

E. Manufacturing Careers Policy

The Manufacturing Careers Policy (MCP) does not apply to this contract. The MCP is required on Metro's Rolling Stock RFPs, with an Independent Cost Estimate of at least $50 million.

Shared Mobility - Facilities Contracted Maintenance Services

HERBICIDE APPLICATION SERVICES FOR BUS AND RAIL RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND FACILITIES

Metro

Operations, Safety, & Customer Experience Committee
November 19, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

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AWARDEE & BID

AWARDEE

Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc.

NUMBER OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

One (1) bid received Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc.

Three-Year Base Contract	$992,879
Option Year One	$346,525
Option Year Two	$362,669
Five (5) Year NTE Amount	$1,702,073

DEOD COMMITMENT

This contract solicitation was subject to the Small Business Set-Aside program and open to certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms only. Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., a Metro-certified SBE contractor made a 30% SBE commitment as the Prime, meeting the Small Business Prime Set-Aside requirements established for this solicitation.

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ISSUE & DISCUSSION

ISSUE

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ISSUE & DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Under the new contract recommended for award, Far East Landscape & Maintenance, Inc. is required to provide systemwide herbicide application services.

Regular herbicide application services are essential for Metro facilities and ROWs to ensure compliance with Federal, State and local codes and requirements, reduce the threat of fires, maintain proper visibility of signals for safe transit operations, prevent wheel slippage, and allow for proper inspection and maintenance with safe and reliable operations.

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