

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 12, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Contract for professional services to Soil-Tech Inc for vegetation maintenance along the Southeast Connector (Veterans Parkway) from March through July 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$97,500. (Sewer Fund, Street Fund) [Ward 3]

From: Ryan Bird, Maintenance & Ops Manager

Department: Maintenance and Operations

Summary:

Given the slow establishment of desirable wetland species and the ongoing influx of invasive plants, continuous adaptive management is essential to maintaining the integrity of the Southeast Connector (SEC) wetlands. To address these challenges, Soil-Tech has developed a targeted action plan with a primary focus on effective weed management. Staff recommends Council approve the Professional Services Contract with Soil-Tech.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	X	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	<1%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The most significant challenge facing the Southeast Connector (SEC) project is the management of noxious and invasive weeds. Effective control requires strategic planning, accurate identification, and targeted removal of invasive species. With over 20 years of expertise in weed mitigation and wetland management, Soil-Tech provides a comprehensive solution for invasive species control, regardless of scale. The original permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mandates adherence to the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) developed by CH2M and RTC in October 2014. Section 7.2 of this plan emphasizes the importance of an adaptive management strategy.

Discussion:

The original permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mandates adherence to the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) developed by CH2M and RTC in October 2014. Section 7.2 of this plan emphasizes the importance of an adaptive management strategy. In this approach, the landowner or manager considers land management to be an ongoing process, with outcomes varying over time. Since 2017, Soil-Tech has conducted monitoring of both mitigation and enhancement wetlands within the SEC project. During this period, several significant flood events—exceeding the 5-year return interval—have disrupted the establishment of wetland plantings and seedings, while also facilitating the spread of invasive weed propagules into the project area. For the long-term success of the constructed wetlands, an adaptive management strategy is being implemented by the Maintenance & Operations Department. The professional services agreement with Soil-Tech for vegetation management supports this goal through a combination of mechanical weed removal and the controlled application of herbicides.

Financial Implications:

Funding for this agreement is being allocated in the Maintenance & Operations Department's FY25 Sewer and Stormwater System Maintenance (\$58,500 from the Sewer Fund) and Street Maintenance (\$39,000 from the Street Fund) division budgets.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law per NRS 332.115 (b) Professional Services.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve agreement

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve Staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Soil-Tech Professional Services Agreement