

EXHIBIT "A"

SCOPE OF SERVICES

I. IRRIGATION - GENERAL

Irrigation shall be done with the use of automatic or manual sprinkler systems where available and operable. Failure of an existing system to provide full and adequate coverage shall not relieve the contractor of the responsibility to provide proper coverage of all areas. Providing any supplementary hoses, sprinklers, nozzles, etc., necessary to accomplish full coverage shall be the contractor's responsibility. Must comply with current City irrigation policies/regulations.

A. Maintenance

The contractor shall maintain all sprinkler systems in such a way as to give proper coverage and full working capacity, making whatever adjustments necessary to prevent excessive run-off time into streets or other areas not intended to be irrigated. Care shall be taken to prevent wasting water, causing soil erosion, or allowing seepage into existing underground improvements or structures.

The contractor shall, at no cost to the City, keep controller or valve boxes free of dirt and debris; repair, replace, clean, adjust, straighten, raise or lower the following sprinkler system components as it relates to maintenance of the landscape areas:

1. sprinkler heads;
2. sprinkler caps;
3. sprinkler head risers;
4. valve covers;
5. valve boxes;
6. valve box lids, including electrical pull boxes and lids;
7. valve sleeves;
8. quick coupler valves and caps;
9. hose bibs.

B. Inspection

The contractor shall, at least once a week, inspect all areas covered by an automatic irrigation system for any malfunction. Approximately thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the contract, a comprehensive test of all irrigation systems shall be made by a Public Works Department representative. Any repairs deemed the contractor's responsibility shall be made by the contractor prior to the end of the contract period.

If repairs made are not to the Director of Public Works or his designee's satisfaction, deductions shall be made in the final contract payment to cover the cost of eliminating the discrepancies determined by the Director of Public Works or his designee.

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C. Repairs

Irrigation systems which are damaged or altered in any way as a result of work performed under this contract shall be repaired or replaced in kind and in an approved manner by the contractor.

Repairs shall be made immediately after damage or alteration occurs, by contractor unless otherwise directed. Repairs made as a result of theft, vandalism or an act of God shall be performed by the City.

Winterization – Contractor shall winterize all exposed piping and back flow prevention devices to prevent freeze damage. All damage to back flow devices caused by freezing will be the contractor responsibility to repair or replace.

Repairs not made, or not made to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works or his designee, the work will be done by others and billed to the contractor.

D. Irrigation to be accomplished as follows:

Turf and Groundcover - Turf and groundcover areas to be watered, as required, to maintain horticulturally acceptable growth and color, as well as promote deep root growth. Daily shallow water applications should be avoided where possible in favor of deeper water applications. Water to turf and groundcover areas to generally be applied using current City regulations.

Banks and Slopes - Sloped landscape areas to be irrigated Monday through Friday as required to maintain horticulturally acceptable growth and color. Irrigation practice is to promote deep root growth with a minimum of run-off.

Shrubs and Trees - Shrubs and trees to be irrigated as needed to maintain horticulturally acceptable growth and color.

Irrigation rates to be adjusted according to shrubs or tree types and seasonal weather conditions. Deep watering for root growth is encouraged, and surface run-off to be kept at a minimum.

Newly Planted Trees, Shrubs, Groundcover, and Turf - All newly planted areas to receive special attention until plants are established. Adequate water to be applied to promote normal, healthy growth. Watering basins around newly planted shrubs and trees to be used during establishment period.

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II. WEED CONTROL - GENERAL

For the purposes of this specification, a weed shall be considered to be any undesirable plant or plant growing out of place.

All landscaping within the specified maintenance areas including lawns, shrubs, and groundcover beds, planters, and tree wells shall be kept free of all weeds at all times. Complete removal of all weed growth is to be accomplished every thirty (30) days on a continuing basis, not just once each thirty (30) days. Weeds may be controlled by mechanical methods, or chemical methods at the discretion of the contractor.

A. Use of Chemical Pesticides for Weed Control

The contractor shall abide by all Federal, State, County and City rules and regulations regarding the safe application of herbicides under this contract. Care shall be taken to ensure the safety of the public and contractor's employees during chemical weed control operations. All posting regulations shall be followed in accordance with current Federal, State, County and City regulations in regards to re-entry times.

Great care shall be taken by the contractor to avoid herbicide drift onto non-target plants.

III. DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

The contractor shall regularly inspect all landscaped areas for the presence of disease, insect, or rodent infestation.

Upon approval of the Director or his designee, the contractor shall implement the approved control measures utilizing all safeguards necessary to protect the public and contractor's employees.

A. Use of Chemical Pesticides

All Federal, State, County and City rules and regulations regarding safe application of pesticides under this contract shall be observed.

Great care shall be taken to avoid pesticide drift onto non-target organisms.

IV. PRUNING – GENERAL

All shrubs, trees, and groundcover, plant growing in the work areas shall be pruned as required to maintain plants in a healthy growing condition. Pruning is to be done in a manner which promotes the plant's natural growth characteristics. Hedging, shearing, or other sever pruning will not be allowed except with prior approval.

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Plant growth is to be kept within reasonable bounds to prevent its encroachment into walks, passageways, and streets. Clear view of traffic signs and intersections is to be maintained at all times.

All dead, dying, or damaged branches shall be removed immediately. All cuts shall be made cleanly with no stubs or projections remaining.

A. Trees

The contractor shall be responsible for all pruning that can be reached with a 12-foot pole-saw by a man standing on the ground. All trees are to be maintained in their natural shape.

Newly planted trees are to be staked, pruned and shaped to promote their eventual development into strong, healthy representatives of their species. Until young trees are strong enough to stand alone, they shall be flex-tied between two approved 2-inch by 2-inch by 8-foot treated tree stakes.

The contractor shall bring to the Director or his designee's attention within 24 hours any tree which shows signs of root heaving, leaning, having hanger limbs, or in some manner constituting a safety hazard.

V. FERTILIZATION - GENERAL

Contractor will use a complete fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) equal to or better than Turf Gold 22-5-5. The contractor will put on fertilizer at the following times and rates:

First application in early spring, second application in early fall. The rate will be one pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet, per application.

VI. REPLACEMENT OF PLANT MATERIAL

- A. The contractor shall notify the Director or his designee within four (4) days of the loss of plant material due to any cause.
- B. The contractor shall supply all labor and materials to replace any tree, shrub, turf, or groundcover damaged or lost through the contractor's faulty maintenance or negligence.
- C. The size and species of replacement plant material shall be determined by the Director or his designee.
- D. Where there is a difference in value between the tree lost and the replacement tree, the difference will be deducted from the contract payment.

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The value will be deducted from the contract payment. The value will be determined using the latest International Society of Arboriculture guidelines.

Any plant damaged or lost through theft, vehicular damage, act of God, or other unknown sources not the responsibility of the contractor, shall be replaced by the City.

VII. TURF MAINTENANCE

A. Mowing

All Lawn areas in this contract shall be mowed with power-propelled reel or rotary-type mowers. Mowers shall be maintained to provide a smooth, even cut without tearing. Blade adjustment to provide uniform cut with no ridges or depressions.

All mowers are to be cleaned prior to each mowing to avoid possible weed invasion. All grass clippings and leaves shall be kept out of the waterways and street. Litter clean up shall be done by contractor before mowing.

Mowing to be performed so that no more than one-third of the grass blade is removed in returning the grass to acceptable height for the species being mowed.

All turf areas are to be mowed once a week on a preset day. Any changes to this schedule are to be approved in advance by the Director or his designee for the City of Merced.

During periods of heavy growth, more than one mowing per week may be required in high maintenance areas.

- B. All turf to be edged adjacent to improved surfaces. If no improved surface exists, turf edges shall be maintained where the turf abuts a shrub bed or property line, or to maintain turf delineation.

Edging to be performed at least after every second turf mowing.

VIII. GROUND COVER MAINTENANCE

- A. All areas planted in groundcovers shall be adequately irrigated and fertilized to maintain vigorous growth.

Groundcover beds shall be periodically edged to keep them in their intended space.

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Groundcovers shall not be allowed to encroach into lawns, shrub beds, or other areas deemed as undesirable by the Director or his designee.

- B. Groundcover plantings shall be periodically thinned and pruned for vigorous growth and overall appearance of the site. The spaces between plants shall be regularly cultivated.
- C. Litter clean up shall be done by contractor during the maintenance interval.