

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation to award Construction Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) No. 24-8234, “Collier County Dune Restoration Planting - 2024,” to Earth Balance Corporation in the amount of \$1,284,920.45, , and make a finding that this item promotes tourism. (Project 33870)

OBJECTIVE: To restore the dune vegetation plantings throughout the upland dry beach portion of the recently renourished Collier County beach shorelines between Monument Markers R-1 to R-148.1.

CONSIDERATION: The existing dunes in these areas were severely damaged by Hurricane Ian, removing much of the existing vegetation. Collier’s 2023 Emergency Berm Project replaced a large amount of sand in the areas where the pre-storm dunes were located. Planting these areas will help stabilize the new berm, enhancing the protection of upland properties. Additionally, protection of the newly planted dunes will be provided with the installation of posts with signage directing beachgoers to stay off the dunes.

On March 29, 2024, the Procurement Services Department posted ITB No. 24-8234 for construction of the “Collier County Dune Restoration Planting - 2024.” The bid was advertised for a total of forty-five (45) days, staff conducted vendor outreach, and the County received one (1) bid by the May 13, 2024, submission deadline, as shown below.

RESPONDENTS:					
Company Name	City	County	ST	Bid Amount	Responsive/Responsible
EarthBalance Corporation	North Port	Sarasota	FL	\$1,284,920.45	Yes/Yes

Staff determined that the bidder was responsive and responsible, and that EarthBalance Corporation is the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder. EarthBalance is a corporation formed in 1985 in the state of Florida and licensed to transact business in the state of Florida since 1985.

Staff determined the lowest bid is fair and reasonable and recommends awarding the contract to EarthBalance Corporation. The Principal Project Manager evaluated references and deemed them acceptable to determine relevant experience of work of a similar magnitude judged within the last five years, which includes the contractor’s prior experience, skill and business standing, and the contractor’s ability to conduct the work as completely and timely as required under the terms of the Agreement. The bid is approximately 21% lower than the Engineer’s \$1,618,516.25 opinion of probable cost. Staff concluded bidding was competitive and representative of market conditions. The bid tabulation, bid analysis, Engineer’s letter of recommendation (DELORA), the Notice of Recommended Award (NORA) and contract are attached.

This item is consistent with the Quality of Place Objectives of the County’s Strategic Plan.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: This item will be presented to Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) on June 13, 2024, and the Tourist Development Council (TDC) on July 16, 2024.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPACT: This item is consistent with the Conservation and Coastal Management Element of the Growth Management Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for the contract in the amount of \$1,284,920.45, has already been appropriated within the Growth Management Grant Fund (1841), 2022 Hurricane Ian & Nicole Emergency Recovery Project (33870). The funding source for this project is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant 23C02. No local match is required.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS: This item is approved as to form and legality and requires majority vote for approval. – CMG

RECOMMENDATION: To award Construction Invitation to Bid (“ITB”) No. 24-8234, “Collier County Dune Restoration Planting - 2024,” to Earth Balance Corporation in the amount of \$1,284,920.45, and make a finding that this item promotes tourism.(Project 33870)

Prepared By: Larry Humphries Project Manager II, Coastal Zone Management, Capital Project Planning Fees and Program Management