

American River Flood Control District

Purchase of Alamo Ridge Runner Mower

Staff Report

Discussion:

District staff has been following the developing technology of remotely operated mowers for a number of years. Recently, the representatives for the Alamo company alerted District staff to their newest model. This model, the Ridge Runner, is extremely light weight and has a very low center of gravity. The mower is operated by remote control and can access very tight spaces were the District previously could only control vegetation with line trimmers or herbicides.

The District rented the Ridge Runner for the entire month of June 2017 and experienced impressive results. The mower was very maneuverable on steep levee slopes and was able to turn on the slope without damaging the slope or sod covering. The light weight of the mower and the low ground pressure from the rubber tracks attributed to the mower's handling and lack of slope damage.

District staff tested the mower in many tight to reach spots on the landside of the levee in River Park. The 2-mile section that normally takes the crew a week to weed whack with line trimmers was completed in one day with the Ridge Runner with only one operator manning the controls.

There is currently no equal competitor for the Alamo Ridge Runner for the District's intended purposes. District staff researched the other remotely operated mowers on the market and the closest rubber tracked comparison weights nearly 3 times as much as the Rider Runner at 2640 pounds. Remotely controlled mowers with tires instead of tracks are available but are not expected to maneuver well on the District's steep levee slopes.

The rental agent from Valley Truck and Tractor also provided a sales quote for the purchase of the Alamo mower. The quote lists a reduction of the list price by 90% of the June rental fee. The resulting price including the reduction is for \$41,746.88

Recommendation:

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of the Alamo Ridge Runner mower at a price of \$41,746.88.

