

AWARD OF BIDS/RFPS/CO-OPS/SINGLE SOURCES (cont.)

SINGLE SOURCE #6762 SUMMARY: **EUCALYPTUS BROWSE** to be supplied on an “as needed” basis for a two (2) year period beginning September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025

This single source requires a split award to provide Eucalyptus Browse for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on an “as needed basis.” The dual award by Koala Browse of Boyton Beach, Florida and Australian Outback Plantation, Tonopah, Arizona, assures Cleveland Metroparks is not reliant upon one producer if growing conditions prevent an adequate harvest. Weather conditions, disease and insect infestation of the eucalyptus varies between provider regions. Browse nutrition and leaf condition is also varied due to soil conditions, temperatures, season and amount of rainfall. Growing conditions affect the nutritional quality of the plant resulting in inconsistencies in the koalas’ consumption of the eucalyptus browse. Keepers are unable to determine or predict which leaves or species the animals will prefer on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, there is a difference in species of eucalyptus provided by each supplier. Australian Outback Plantation provides between 17 and 25 different species of eucalyptus weekly which provides variety in the koalas’ diet.

Minimally two (2) koalas, one male and one female, are projected to be in the Zoo’s collection during the term of this bid. Shipping of eucalyptus browse (packed in ice as needed during warm months) is sent via Southwest Airlines. Koala Browse’s shipping costs are billed separately.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Board authorize the purchase of eucalyptus browse, as per Single Source #6762, to be supplied on an “as needed” basis for a two (2) year period beginning September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025, **in an amount not to exceed \$250,000**, including browse that is packed in ice from **Australian Outback Plantation** at a price of \$6.75/pound and \$5.00/pound (\$24.00/bundle) from **Koala Browse**. In the event the log of consumption approaches 90 percent of the total estimate, an action item will be presented to the Board requesting an increase.