



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



October 20, 2020

File ID: 20-0354

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING A REIMBURSEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,000 FROM THE RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP TO FUND A BATTERY RECYCLING CAMPAIGN AIMED AT EDUCATING RESIDENTS ON THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF BATTERIES (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery estimates that less than one percent of household batteries are properly disposed of for recycling each year in the state of California. In collaboration with The Recycling Partnership, the Environmental Services Section of the Office of Sustainability will create a multi-faceted campaign aimed at educating residents on the proper disposal of household batteries, which present environmental dangers as well as fire hazards.

In order to combat improper battery disposal, The Recycling Partnership proposes \$180,000 in reimbursable grant funds to support trash and recycling cart tagging for battery disposal education outreach, educational mailers, digital campaign support, and more. The campaign will incorporate an online survey at the start and completion of the project to help measure the campaign's effectiveness.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Development Services Director has reviewed the proposed project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities), Section 15303 class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and Section 15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Sustainability Commission voted to recommend City Council approval of this item in their September 14, 2020 meeting.

DISCUSSION

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery estimates that less than one percent of household batteries are properly disposed each year in the state of California. In collaboration with The Recycling Partnership, the Environmental Services Section of the Office of Sustainability will create a multi-faceted campaign aimed at educating residents on the proper disposal of household batteries.

In California, batteries are considered hazardous due to the heavy metals and/or toxic or corrosive materials they contain. For this reason, it is illegal to dispose of batteries in the trash and, while batteries are recyclable, they cannot be placed in recycling carts because they are a hazardous item that requires special handling. When batteries are improperly disposed, they eventually corrode and leak their hazardous materials into the environment.

Batteries also pose a fire hazard. Touching a battery's positive and negative terminals to a conductor, such as metal, allows energy to flow out of the battery and if the terminals are connected to an item with low resistance, the flow of current can cause a fire. Batteries can be especially dangerous when disposed of together in trash or recycling carts, creating the potential to cause a fire in the home, in trash or recycling collection vehicles, or at sorting facilities.

In order to combat improper battery disposal, The Recycling Partnership proposes \$180,000 in reimbursable grant funds to support trash and recycling cart tagging for battery disposal education outreach, educational mailers to residents, digital campaign support and signage installments at public transit shelters as well as the City's household hazardous waste facility. The campaign will incorporate an online survey at the start and completion of the project to help measure the campaign's effectiveness. Specific grant deliverables and the grant proposed budget is specified in the Grantee Workplan and Project Budget and Funding Sections in Attachment 1; *City of Chula Vista-Recycling Partnership Grant Agreement*.

The Recycling Partnership is a national nonprofit organization aimed at transforming recycling in cities and towns across America. The Recycling Partnership believes that recycling is fundamental to a healthy environment and economy and it works in cooperation with communities and companies through leveraged seed grants, technical assistance, and other tools to continuously innovate and improve recycling systems.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, *et. seq.*)

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will result in a one-time appropriation of \$180,000 to the Economic Development Department's Environmental Services supplies and services budget. The Recycling

Partnership is the source of funding for this campaign; therefore, there is no net fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There is no ongoing fiscal impact for accepting these funds.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – City of Chula Vista, Recycling Partnership Grant Agreement

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