

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA Guidelines because the proposal involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Thus, no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Not Applicable

DISCUSSION

The City of Chula Vista's composting program is part of the Integrated Waste Management Plan to divert resources from disposal to higher and better uses. This program offers Chula Vista residents the knowledge to turn their home-generated vegetative waste into nutrient-rich compost/soil amendment. Keeping this organic material out of the Otay Landfill prevents additional generation of methane, the most potent of greenhouse gasses and helps the City's comply with organic waste reduction measures, as directed by California Assembly Bill 1826.

Previously, the Living Coast Discovery Center (LCDC) was part of the City's operations as the *Chula Vista Nature Center* but in 2010 it became a stand-alone entity. Prior to the transfer, the Environmental Services Section built a compost demonstration site and outside lecture shelter for weekly classes; and regularly used the center's auditorium for evening composting workshops. The cooperation between the LCDC and city staff produced a successful program that continues to thrive. This was mainly in part because LCDC staff holds unique and invaluable knowledge of the city's backyard composting program and has partnered with the city since the program's original development. Therefore, staff is requesting that Council waive the competitive bid process given the unique and specialized qualifications and relationship with the LCDC.

Entering into a binding agreement will formalize the relationship between the City and LCDC for the backyard composting program and will give the City Manager or designee authority to execute three, one-year extensions. In past years the LCDC and the City operated the program with a contract that provided "as needed" services and now seeks to formalize a long-term agreement that will secure the City's backyard composting program, the institutional knowledge of LCDC staff and the location to hold workshops and presentations.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the property holdings of the City Council members and has found no property holdings within 500 feet of the boundaries of the property which is the subject of this action. Consequently, this item does not present a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under California Code of Regulations Title 2, section 18702.2(a)(11), for purposes of the 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

LINK TO STRATEGIC GOALS

The City's Strategic Plan has five major goals: Operational Excellence, Economic Vitality, Healthy Community, Strong and Secure Neighborhoods and a Connected Community. The approval of this agreement supports the City's Strategic Plan goals of Economic Vitality and Healthy Community. Investments in sustainability projects ensure and promote a healthy environment, a strong economy

and well-being for all.

CURRENT YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund. All expenditures and revenues are fully funded through the Environmental Services Fund.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

There are no long-term ongoing impacts to the General Fund. All expenditures and revenues associated with this two-year contract are fully funded through the Environmental Services Fund.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Two party agreement

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