



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JANUARY 7, 2020**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: REVISED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR CITY OF RIVERSIDE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY ORGANICS GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000**

## **ISSUE:**

Adopt a revised resolution authorizing City of Riverside as Lead Agency in a regional grant application to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for Fiscal Year 2019/20, in the amount of \$3,000,000 for the Organics Grant Program.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council adopt the revised Resolution authorizing the City of Riverside to submit a grant application on behalf of itself as Lead Agency to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery for the Organics Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2019/20 in the amount of \$3,000,000.

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

In September 2016, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) in various sectors of California's economy.

As it pertains to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. The law gives CalRecycle the regulatory authority required to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Methane emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic waste in landfills are a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contributing to global climate change. Organic materials--including waste that can be readily prevented, recycled, or composted--account for a significant portion of California's overall waste stream. Food waste alone accounts for approximately 17-18 percent of total landfill disposal. Increasing food waste prevention, encouraging edible food rescue, and expanding the composting and in-vessel digestion of organic

waste throughout the state will help reduce methane emissions from organic waste disposed in California's landfills.

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) identifies publicly owned treatment works (POTW), like the City's Regional Water Control Plant, waste as key components of the state's strategy to reduce methane emissions. The SLCP Strategy, adopted by ARB on March 23, 2017, outlines ARB's approach to achieve state mandates to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. ARB outlines its plans to pursue the use of surplus digester capacity at POTWs as a key component in the state's efforts to divert organic waste from landfills.

The SLCP Strategy includes the groundwork for compliance with SB 1383 that mandates a statewide reduction of methane emissions of 40 percent below 2013 levels by 2030. ARB believes that using digester capacity at POTWs to co-digest food waste and fats, oil, and grease (FOG) is a viable pathway to achieving these diversion goals. The methane generated from digestion is captured and beneficially used to create electricity and renewable transportation fuels.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Public Works Department, Wastewater Division operates the City's Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) and manages the Sewer Enterprise Fund. In order to support the City's Solid Waste Division compliance with CalRecycle food waste diversion regulations, the RWQCP will be pursuing grant opportunities to support projects for receiving and processing at least 100 tons of City food waste per day. The RWQCP will use the digester gas created from food waste to produce renewable energy such as electricity and renewable natural gas. Burrtec Industries is participating in the grant application to install and operate an organic separator, producing the necessary feed stock that will be processed by the RWQCP digesters.

On October 1, 2019, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing submission of a grant application to CalRecycle for the Organics Grant Program, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Production for Fiscal Year 2019/20 in the amount of \$3,000,000, approved a supplemental appropriation, and authorized the City Manager to execute all related grant documents.

Subsequent to City Council's October 1, 2019 action to approve the original Resolution, CalReycle, the granting agency, rejected the Resolution as adopted and requested that the City adopt CalRecycle's form Resolution for the grant designating the City as Lead Participant. All other aspects of the original grant application and authority remain the same.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

If the grant application is successful, the City may receive up to \$3,000,000 from the CalRecycle Organics Grant Program—for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. There are no matching funds required. Should City be successful in securing a formal grant award, Public Works will present to City Council the projects funded by the grant award.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. Burrtec Support Letter
3. Presentation