



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 10942)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 1/27/2020

Summary Title: Resolution to Further Discussions on the Future Use of the SMaRT Station for Processing Solid Waste

Title: Adoption of a Resolution for the City of Palo Alto to Participate With the City of Sunnyvale in the Planning and Development of Cost Estimates for Potential Future use of the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station (SMaRT Station) for Processing Solid Waste

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Public Works

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A), requested by the City of Sunnyvale, to continue discussions on the potential future use of the SMaRT Station by the City of Palo Alto beyond 2021.

Executive Summary

The City of Sunnyvale, the owner of the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT) Station, has requested that cities potentially interested in partnering with it on the continued use of the SMaRT Station to adopt a resolution indicating that interest. Council's adoption of the attached resolution would provide the requested assurance to Sunnyvale that it is appropriate to continue discussions with City of Palo Alto staff on the potential future use of the SMaRT Station. Palo Alto's current contract with Sunnyvale for use of the SMaRT Station expires in late 2021, and Palo Alto must determine where to send its garbage (contents of the black carts and bins) after the expiration date. Palo Alto staff will be requesting information from Sunnyvale on costs and diversion and comparing that data to the results of a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for solid waste processing and disposal about to be initiated by Palo Alto. The RFP process is designed to solicit solutions other than the Sunnyvale SMaRT Station and identify the cost and other information for those alternatives. Adoption of the resolution would not bind Palo Alto to any particular course, including continuing utilization of the SMaRT Station after the current contract's expiration.

Background

Collection, processing, and disposal of solid waste, compostable, and recyclable materials in Palo Alto is handled through three main agreements. GreenWaste of Palo Alto (GreenWaste)

provides curbside collection, transportation, and processing services for recyclable, compostable, and construction and demolition materials. GreenWaste also collects solid waste/garbage from all residential and commercial customers but transports the material to be processed at the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT®) Station in Sunnyvale. The SMaRT Station is owned by Sunnyvale and operated by their contractor, Bay Counties. Under a 1991 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the cities of Palo Alto, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale, Palo Alto pays Sunnyvale for solid waste processing services and removal of recyclable and compostable materials at the SMaRT Station. The residuals from the processing are then transported for disposal at the Kirby Canyon Landfill in South San Jose, through a separate agreement that Palo Alto has with Waste Management. The MOU with the City of Sunnyvale for solid waste processing and the agreement with Waste Management for landfill disposal will both end in 2021.

Discussion

The current contracts with Sunnyvale and Waste Management for garbage processing and landfill disposal were developed nearly 30 years ago and the industry and processing equipment have changed immensely. In August 2018 ([ID# 9237](#)), Council directed staff to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for solid waste/garbage (the contents of the black containers) processing and disposal services. The RFP was recommended as a first step to replace these 30-year agreements and solicit proposals for the same processing and disposal services that are provided by the SMaRT Station and Waste Management. The RFP is scheduled to be issued in early 2020.

The City of Sunnyvale has been planning the future of the SMaRT Station, including determining future partnerships, facility needs, post-2021 facility improvements, and conceptual designs for priority improvements. Palo Alto and Mountain View, as existing partners, have been involved in the initial planning discussions, along with the cities of Santa Clara and Cupertino as potential future partners. Parallel to Palo Alto's RFP process, staff will meet with the City of Sunnyvale and its consultants to determine if continuing processing garbage at the SMaRT Station is the best service and value for Palo Alto. The City of Sunnyvale has requested a Council resolution for this level of engagement from all the municipalities involved in these discussions, including the cities of Mountain View, Santa Clara, and Cupertino. The city councils of these other cities have already adopted a similar resolution. The adoption of the recommended resolution indicates the City's assurance to progress on the discussions but does not commit the City to entering into the future partnership.

Timeline

Staff will begin planning and cost discussions with the City of Sunnyvale immediately upon the resolution approval. Concurrently, an RFP for garbage processing and disposal services will be issued with the procurement process expected to be completed in Spring 2020 followed by a recommendation to Council.

Stakeholder Engagement

As this is an administrative step with no commitment beyond staff participation, no external stakeholder engagement has been involved.

Resource Impact

There are no fiscal impacts associated with adoption of this resolution.

Environmental Review

The resolution does not constitute a project under CEQA.

Attachments:

- Resolution - Smart Station Planning Participation by City of Palo Alto

Not Yet Approved

Resolution No. _____

A Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto of Intent to Participate in the Planning and Preparation of Cost Estimates for Potential Future Use of the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station

RECITALS

- A. The City of Palo Alto (City) has an agreement with the City of Sunnyvale and Waste Management for the processing of solid waste and removal of recyclable and compostable materials and transportation of residuals for disposal that will terminate in 2021.
- B. The City has an agreement with Waste Management Kirby Canyon Landfill for the disposal of residuals that will also terminate in 2021.
- C. The City is evaluating long-term options for the processing and disposal of garbage.
- D. The City has a Zero-Waste goal of diverting 95 percent of waste from landfill by 2030, and a current diversion rate of 82 percent.
- E. The City of Sunnyvale owns the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer (SMaRT®) Station, a materials processing and transfer facility.
- F. The City and the cities of Sunnyvale and Mountain View have worked collaboratively to process solid waste at the SMaRT Station through a Memorandum of Understanding since 1992.
- G. The use of the SMaRT Station offers fiscal and operational management, proximity that makes solid waste processing efficient and minimizes transport and climate change emissions compared to more distant facilities, and long-term capacity sufficient to meet material processing needs for City.
- H. Use of the SMaRT Station offers Palo Alto residents' drop-off for recyclable beverage containers for redemption and compost pickup.
- I. The City of Sunnyvale is evaluating options for the future use of the SMaRT Station facility, which includes a partnership option with those cities interested in participation.
- J. The City of Sunnyvale invited the City of Palo Alto to discuss partnership opportunities in the use of the SMaRT Station beyond 2021.

Not Yet Approved

SECTION 3. The Council finds that the adoption of this resolution is not a project subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because adoption of this resolution is an administrative government activity that will not result in any direct or indirect physical change to the environment as a result (CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5)).

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED:

Assistant City Attorney

City Manager

Director of Public Works