



DATE: October 21, 2015

TO: Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director

BY: Tom Padia, Principal Program Manager

SUBJECT: Funding Approval – Castro Valley Sanitary District “Less Than Weekly” Residential Garbage Collection Pilot

BACKGROUND

Ever since residential collection programs began allowing single-family customers to add food scraps to their organics carts that are collected weekly, solid waste managers have been intrigued by the idea of collecting the remaining garbage every other week (EOW) or less than weekly (LTW) as a way of reducing or controlling collection costs as well as helping participants to place more or all of their food scraps in the green bin rather than the garbage cart. This approach could potentially save 8-12 % of collection costs, and/or make some or all of the savings available to assist households in overcoming obstacles to wider participation in food scrap diversion.

The Recycling Board 5 Year Program Audit that was concluded in 2013 profiled the conditions and experiences in other communities that have adopted Every Other Week (EOW) residential garbage collection, including Portland, Oregon; Renton, WA; Vancouver, WA; and New Westminster, British Columbia (http://www.stopwaste.org/sites/default/files/Documents/5_year_audit_6-28-13.pdf). Given the success in Portland and other jurisdictions, and the potential to both drive up participation in organics diversion programs and significantly reduce or control future costs, the Authority budgeted \$50,000 in FY 14/15 to support one or more member agencies with piloting EOW residential garbage collection. Despite repeated offers to the member agency technical advisory committee (TAC) in 2014, no one expressed interest or was prepared at that time to move forward with a pilot. However, in recognition of the importance of pilot studies of ways to increase residential food scrap diversion, the agency budgeted an additional \$200,000 in FY 15/16 for “Residential Organics Recovery Pilots.” Funding in both years came from the Organics Processing Development Reserve Fund.

DISCUSSION

Towards the end of FY 14/15 the Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) staff expressed interest in designing and implementing a pilot. CVSan staff initiated discussion with StopWaste staff and with consultants experienced in this arena. CVSan’s current franchise agreement with Waste

Management of Alameda County (WMAC) expires in mid-2019 and district staff are interested in gaining knowledge and experience through a pilot that will inform their process of structuring collection and outreach programs under a new agreement. As a result of preliminary discussions with WMAC, along with certain legal concerns, the pilot has been structured as a “Less Than Weekly” (LTW) pilot where residents on pilot routes will be strongly and repeatedly encouraged to set out garbage only every other week or less often as needed, but the truck will drive the route each week and will collect all carts set out. It is expected that a new contract that goes through a Prop. 218 process from the beginning would be able to incorporate true “Every Other Week” collection if that is the direction CVSsan chooses to go.

In mid-August CVSsan issued a competitive RFP for primary consultants to help design and implement a less than weekly (LTW) pilot. Two of the four respondents were interviewed and the team led by HF&H Consultants, with ESA and Kies Strategies as subconsultants, was selected. CVSsan staff also solicited proposals for other outreach assistance. The end result of their efforts to design a pilot is reflected in Attachment A. CVSsan staff went to their Board on October 6, 2015 and received approval to proceed with the pilot, contingent upon funding from StopWaste. The \$50,000 from FY 14/15 was encumbered for possible use by CVSsan when they expressed interest in performing such a pilot towards the end that fiscal year. They are requesting additional funding up to \$200,000 from the current year budget, per the attached proposal. This amount has been budgeted, but approval for any amount in excess of \$50,000 per fiscal year per recipient is a Board decision. Some additional funds (e.g., \$50,000-\$100,000) will be needed within the "Residential Organics Recovery Pilots" project this fiscal year, for bag testing in jurisdictions other than CVSsan, but we may be able to transfer those funds from another project in the mid-year budget without increasing the budget, or could if necessary draw those funds from the organics reserves, which have more than \$7 million at present.

StopWaste staff has been consulted by CVSsan throughout this process. In addition to the budgeted funding, StopWaste will schedule and structure benchmark waste audits in Castro Valley to support the metrics of the pilot. There are still a few clarifications needed in the funding request from CVSsan (Attachment A), such as the difference between technical assistance and incentives (incentives should not be provided for participation; that would affect the applicability of the results to other jurisdictions). These remaining clarifications can be done by the staff of the agencies before finalizing an agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Authority Board authorize the Executive Director to finalize a funding agreement with the Castro Valley Sanitary District for its LTW pilot project, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, for an amount up to \$200,000 (payment of actual expenses incurred), with funds to come from Project #3420, Residential Organics Recovery Pilots, in the FY 15/16 budget.

Attachment A: [Funding Request from CVSsan](#)