



DATE: July 2, 2015

TO: Recycling Board

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BY: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Grants to Nonprofits Program – Additional Funds Request

BACKGROUND:

Measure D earmarks funds from the Recycling Fund specifically for the nonprofit community. Measure D states: *“Ten percent (10%) of the recycling fund revenues shall be applied to a grant program for nonprofit organizations engaged in maximizing recycling, composting, and reducing waste within Alameda County. The Recycling Board shall be an organization eligible to receive funds under this Subparagraph, for the purposes of conducting planning, research, and studies directed at furthering the purposes of this act”.*

The Recycling Board has awarded grants through the Grants to Nonprofits (GNP) program for the past eighteen years via an open Request for Proposal process. In that time, the Recycling Board has awarded approximately \$7.25 million dollars in grant funding.

GNP funding is available on a first come - first served basis until funds are expended, with the exception of the competitive and reuse grants that are on an annual cycle with an application deadline. Funding for these two focus areas are offered as part of one solicitation, with grant applications due mid March 2015. These two focus areas offer the largest pot of funds available to grant applicants and past experience has shown that deadlines for these types of grants are needed to procure qualified grant applications.

In FY 14/15, \$308,000 was budgeted for the Grants to Nonprofit Program-Project 2040; \$75,000 has been distributed in FY 14/15 through the following grant focus areas:

<u>FOCUS AREA</u>	<u>FUNDS DISTRIBUTED</u>
Lawn to Garden Conversion Mini Grants	-0-
HOA Lawn Conversion Design Grants	-0-
Community Outreach Mini Grants	\$20,000
Mini Grants	\$15,000
Charity Thrift Block Grants	\$15,000
Special Grants/Studies	\$25,000
Competitive Grants	TBD
<u>Reuse Grants</u>	<u>TBD</u>
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	\$75,000

Descriptions of the above focus areas are available in the December 2014 Grants to Nonprofit Year in Review staff memo, found <http://www.stopwaste.org/GNP2014/Review.pdf>

DISCUSSION:

In FY 14/15 we received 20 applications for competitive and reuse grants, requesting a total \$562,575 in funding. After a thorough review of all applications, staff has concluded that eleven (11) reuse applicants and five (5) competitive grant applicants requesting a total of \$325,000 are qualified and worthy of grant funding. However, only \$233,000 remains in FY 14/15 project budget. A synopsis of the 20 applications received and recommendations for funding can be found in Attachment A. Staff requests that an additional \$92,000 be made available to fund the 16 grant requests, funding to be pulled from the grants to nonprofit fund balance. The GNP fund balance is projected to be \$1.53 million at the end of FY 15/16. It's important to note projected revenue in 15/16 is \$946,685 which outpaces projected expenditures of \$665,272, resulting in a \$281,413 increase in fund balance.

In general, there has been adequate funding in project 2040 GNP's budget in recent fiscal years. As mentioned to the Recycling Board on several occasions, the Agency has not turned away a qualified grant applicant due to lack of funding but rather due to lack of organizational capacity or project conception. The development of new grant focus areas aligning with the Strategic Plan coupled with a community outreach associate in the field promoting the grants program have resulted in an increase of high quality grant applications. The end result this fiscal year is larger requests for funding than available in the FY 14/15 GNP project budget.

At the June 11, 2015 RB budget presentation, there was discussion around utilizing FY 15/16 GNP budget to cover the \$92,000 shortfall in the FY 14/15 grants budget and make a \$92,000 mid-year project budget adjustment to Project 2040 in FY 15/16 (utilizing funds from the GNP fund balance). Board members were not comfortable with this approach and requested staff return to the Board in July with a staff report explaining the budget ramifications and a formal budget amendment request.

Currently there is \$1.5 million in the Grants to Nonprofit fund. These funds can be used only for grants to non-profits and for special studies that advance the purpose of the County Charter amendment that created the Recycling Board (waste reduction). At our current core budget level, an additional \$92,000 of spending brings closer in time by about 3 days the time when the Boards will need to consider spending cuts or revenue increases. As stated when the budget for FY15/16 was presented, the Boards will not have to consider that issue for at least several years at the current spending level. Staff recommends that the Recycling Board amend project 2040 FY 15/16 budget by utilizing \$92,000 from Grants to Nonprofit fund balance to cover the worthy grant requests received in FY 14/15.

As a reminder, grant applications are reviewed internally by appropriate staff members and site tours are conducted to assess organizational capacity and project conception. Due to lack of available funding for all recommended grants, staff requested applicants to provide revised lower budgets and deliverables if additional funding could not be secured. (Attachment A contains these revised requests).

To better fit into the budget decision process, application deadlines will be moved from March to February to allow adequate time to assess funding needs before the budget proposal is made in late April. Furthermore, every grant application will be placed in one of three groups so that it will be easier to assess who would not be funded if worthy requests exceed the amount budgeted (fund within the budget, fund if the budget were augmented, do not fund).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Recycling Board amend the Project 2040 (Grants to Nonprofits) budget for FY 15/16 by adding \$92,000 to come from the Grants to Nonprofit fund balance.

ATTACHMENT 1 – Summary of Grant applicants for FY 15/16 Competitive and Reuse grant solicitation.

ATTACHMENT A GRANTS to NONPROFITS -- FY 14/15 RECOMMENDATIONS

	Organization	Grant Type	Requested Funding	Reduced Requests if additional funding not secured	RECOMMEND	Project Name/Description
	REUSE GRANT REQUESTS					
1	Loved Twice Berkeley	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Clothing newborns-in-need in Alameda County with quality reused baby clothes. Project to clothe 600 babies, reusing 3 tons of clothing equivalent to 45,000 garments distributed and reused.
2	Wardrobe for Opportunity Oakland	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Find a Job Program. Collect donations of professional clothes and redistributes to low-income, job-seeking clients. 32,000 items of clothing reused each year reaching 2,000 unemployed members.
3	Computer Technologies Program Oakland	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Create a Computer Access for Nonprofits program where 10 small nonprofit entities that work with under-served populations would receive a computer lab with refurbished laptops/computers as well as IT support for computer lab.
4	Technology Resource Center Berkeley	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Collect and expand reusable Ewaste program. Funds will expand Ewaste pickup beyond City of Berkeley to Albany, Emeryville and North Oakland.
5	Oakland Public Education Fund (OTX fiscal project) Oakland	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Reuse or safe recycling of more than 150,000 lbs of e-waste annually. Surplus computers and related electronics are refurbished and provided to OUSD schools, students, families. Up to 2,000 computers collected/refurbished year.
6	Urban University Oakland	Reuse	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Single Moms at Work Program - job training program to help single moms move from public assistance to full time work. Urban University operates two reuse stores in Oakland that serve as a platform to deliver transitional employment through reuse stores. Funds to expand reuse stores to a larger warehouse to accept more inventory, increase job training opportunities and greater store revenue.

	Organization	Grant Type	Requested Funding	Reduced Requests if additional funding not secured	RECOMMEND	Project Name/Description
7	Resources Area for Teaching (RAFT) San Jose	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	RAFT Re-Use Project. Increase outreach in Alameda County to grow the amount of materials donated from county businesses and add new organizations to donor list. Funding to be used to offset driver's salary.
8	Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley	Reuse	\$10,650	\$0	\$0	Alameda County Clean Shorelines. Set up recycling stations for monofilament fishing lines which are sent to manufacturer to make into underwater habitat structures called Fish-Hab which attract fish and encourage plant growth. <i>Does not fit the scope of REUSE operating grant.</i>
9	Move For Hunger County wide	Reuse	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	Food Donation and Delivery Program for Relocation Industry of Alameda County. Expand program through education and outreach materials. Funding to cover costs of outreach materials to collect food from long term stay facilities utilizing the moving companies who move occupants and transfer their non perishable food to local food banks.
10	Tri-Valley Haven for Women - Livermore	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Tri-Valley Haven's Thrift Store plans on increasing amount of donated items and promoting recycling and reusing strategies to the community. New organization - need assistance to establish detailed process of accepting and sorting donations from public to reduce waste as well as hold two "trash to treasure" workshops to promote reuse in their community.
11	Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay Countywide	Reuse	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	Funding for Goodwill's Recycling & Resource Recovery Program in Alameda County. Funding provides financial support for staff responsible for developing reuse opportunities at thrift stores.
12	The Big Heart Wellness Center at Saint Bartholomew's, Livermore	Reuse	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	Community Wellness through Re-use: a creative project at St. Bart's. Funds for summer community reuse art project as well as increase communities recycling efforts. <i>Does not fit the scope of REUSE operating grant.</i>
13	Waterside Workshops Berkeley	Reuse	\$15,000	\$0	\$10,000	Street Level Cycles community bicycle shop utilizes donated and discarded bicycles as raw material to teach youth valuable job skills to learn how to rebuild bicycles using salvaged materials. Provides services to low-income youth and adults.

	Organization	Grant Type	Requested Funding	Reduced Requests if additional funding not secured	RECOMMEND	Project Name/Description
	TOTAL REUSE REQUESTS		\$180,650	\$100,000	\$145,000	
	COMPETITIVE GRANT REQUESTS					
14	Civicorps Schools - Oakland	Competitive	\$81,226	\$0	\$0	<u>Purchase box Truck for E-Waste and Waste Tires Collective.</u> New truck will allow 500 tons of ewaste and 100 tons of tires to be collected/diverted from the landfill. <i>Staff requested revised scope for lower funding request .</i> New budget/project: Cover costs of commercial recycling bins for small business accounts no longer serviced by WMX (\$40k for about 500 bins)
15	Global Green USA - Emeryville, Albany, Alameda	Competitive	\$50,000	\$43,500	\$50,000	<u>Deploying and Assessing Enhanced Food Scrap Reduction and Recovery Programs at Multi-Family (MF) Buildings.</u> Building upon pilot project in Albany, Global Green requests funding to coordinate with City staff in Emeryville, Alameda, Albany to conduct outreach and implementation of foods scrap recycling programs at 15 MF buildings reaching 900 units. Will conduct in-depth analysis of food scrap reduction and diversion rate potential in MF buildings. <i>Revised scope for lower funding request: Lower grant request would result in 50 less units reached.</i>
16	MedShare - San Leandro	Competitive	\$63,699	\$25,000	\$40,000	<u>Hospital Waste Diversion-Reuse Expansion Program.</u> Funds requested to increase throughput at facility to increase efficiency which in turn will increase tons of waste diverted. Funding for 7 different types of needed equipment. <i>Staff requested revised budget for lower funding request: \$25k grant would mean 3 pieces of integrated equipment not purchased, \$40k would mean 2 pieces of integrated equipment not purchased.</i>

	Organization	Grant Type	Requested Funding	Reduced Requests if additional funding not secured	RECOMMEND	Project Name/Description
17	K to College Countywide	Competitive	\$52,000	\$30,000	\$45,000	<u>Green Access Pledge (GAP)</u> . Program to provide incentives to AC employers to have electronic waste collected for reuse (or recycling if not usable) to provide refurbished computers to homeless, foster and other low-income children in AC. Working with partners CA Prison Industry Authority's (E-waste program), and Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton (refurbishes ewaste) refurbished materials would be distributed to those in need. <i>Staff requested revised budget for lower funding request</i> -\$45,000 could utilize General Fund budget to make up for lack of additional funds. \$30,000 budget - scale back pilot
18	Ruby's Place Inc Hayward	Competitive	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	<u>Stop Waste at Ruby's Place Programs</u> . Develop and implement formal recycling and food scrap collection program at their women's shelter, including renovation to infrastructure to allow for organics and recyclable carts. Additional activities include outreach to low income community members on importance of food scrap recycling and small lawn conversion using sheet mulching techniques. <i>Staff requested revised budget for lower funding request</i> : \$20k budget would fund enclosure and infrastructure to collect organics, StopWaste TA team to assist. \$25k budtet would allow for additional sheet mulch activities.
19	Bay Area Community Services - Oakland	Competitive	\$65,000	\$0	\$5,000	<u>Recycling Ambassadors Program (RAP)</u> Funding for staff and materials to implement recycling ambassador program at interim housing program facility that provides short term housing to homeless. Facility operates a commercial kitchen and other social services food programs. <i>Staff requested revised budget for lower funding request</i> : Funds to purchase infrastructure to expand recycling in transitional housing, TA team to assist in set up of program

	Organization	Grant Type	Requested Funding	Reduced Requests if additional funding not secured	RECOMMEND	Project Name/Description
20	Berkeley Student Cooperative Berkeley	Competitive	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	<u>CoOp Food Waste, Composting, and Recycling Program</u> . Funds to expand and increase recycling and composting participation in co-op multi unit apartments, decrease food waste in 17 co-op houses utilizing a variety of waste reduction techniques, standardize education and collection containers in all housing. <i>Staff requested revised budget for lower funding request: \$15,000 budget will enable them to expand food scrap recycling in apts and houses, food waste reduction training in 17 houses, audit and performance tracking. Grantee will work with City of Berkeley to obtain individual compost bins and monitor service for food scrap recycling.</i>

Total Competitive Requests			\$381,925	\$133,500	\$180,000
Total Reuse AND Competitive Requests			\$562,575	\$233,500	\$325,000

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

GNP Project	FY 14/15 Budget	Approved Grants	Current Available	Grants recommended for funding
	\$308,000	\$75,000	\$233,000	\$325,000