



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2010
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Finance Department, Environmental Services Division
SUBJECT: Professional Services Contract With Art From Scrap

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve a professional services agreement with Art From Scrap for an amount not to exceed \$29,970 for the implementation of waste reduction, recycling, and composting education for K-12 students in City schools.

DISCUSSION:

Schools generate and throw away large amounts of material every day, the majority of which is recyclable or compostable. According to the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), approximately 85% of a typical school's waste stream can be diverted from landfill disposal. However, without the necessary infrastructure, staff training, and recycling education for students, much of the recyclables and foodscraps generated by schools will end up at the landfill.

Over the past several years, the Regional Program Fee, paid by the City to the County of Santa Barbara, has included a County-administered contract with Art From Scrap for the implementation of education programs for K-6 students. Staff is recommending that the City contract directly with Art From Scrap. By contracting directly with Art From Scrap, the City can dedicate the 18% it currently pays in County overhead fees (approximately \$4,500) directly to the contract services. As a result, Art From Scrap will reach a greater number of students each year, including students in grades 7 through 12. The City can also more closely tailor the education being provided in City schools, including emphasizing its foodscraps composting program, which is unique among the regional agencies.

In the 2008 -2009 school year, approximately 1,750 students were reached at least once by Art From Scrap. Of those 1,750 students, 250 were seen more than once, by participating in a fieldtrip to Art From Scrap or a recycling center. If approved, the proposed contract would reach approximately 2,500 first time students and 625 duplicate students for the 2010-2011 school year. These increases will be achieved by providing lessons on foodscraps composting, providing more in-class lessons, by

reaching out to all middle and high schools in the City, and by conducting assemblies as requested by the City.

County staff members have been notified of the possibility that the City will contract directly for these services and were without objection.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The proposed services to be provided by Art From Scrap are not too exceed \$29,970 and would be funded by Solid Waste funds designated for public education and outreach. This is the same amount the City would have paid under the County-administered contract, and will not result in an increase of expenditures from the City's Solid Waste Fund.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and the City's related efforts to divert material from landfill disposal have considerable beneficial impacts to the environment. The US EPA has acknowledged and developed metrics that provide clear evidence of reduced greenhouse gas emissions through recycling and composting, which result in the creation of products using recycled feedstocks versus using virgin, natural resources. All of the activities of the Solid Waste Strategic Plan contribute to the City's goal of becoming a more sustainable community.

PREPARED BY: Stephen MacIntosh, Environmental Services Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Samario, Interim Finance Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office