



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 630.01

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 7, 2010
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Environmental Services, Finance Department
SUBJECT: Post Closure Matching Solid Waste Cleanup Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Finance Director to Submit an Application to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (*CalRecycle*) for a Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Post Closure Matching Site Cleanup Grant, for the Elings Park Gas Extraction Project, up to \$750,000.

DISCUSSION:

Background

Elings Park on Las Positas Road is a former City landfill. There are monitoring wells throughout the park that measure methane production from decomposing waste. In some of the wells, the methane levels are above the allowable limit, and the City is required by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (*CalRecycle*) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to install a gas extraction system to remove the excess methane. On February 2, 2010, Council authorized funding of the design phase of this project. The Environmental Services Division and the Public Works Engineering Division have been working with Geosyntec, an environmental consulting firm, to design a gas extraction system that captures and treats the methane gas, thereby meeting regulatory requirements.

The project consists of the construction of a landfill gas collection and control system (GCCS). The GCCS will utilize 4 vertical wells to extract Landfill Gas (LFG) which will be conveyed through lateral and header pipes to a blower and thermal oxidizer system for gas destruction. The estimated cost of the construction phase of the project is \$868,000. The project is currently out to bid, and staff plans to return to Council for award of the contract in January 2011.

CalRecycle Grant

CalRecycle provides an annual, competitive Post Closure Matching Site Cleanup Grant to local governments for cleanup of solid waste disposal sites where cleanup is needed to protect the public's health and safety and/or the environment. Grant awards are based on project scope, cost, and eligible funds. If awarded, this grant will match City funds for eligible expenses and pay for up to half of the construction costs of the gas extraction system at Elings Park, with the City paying for the remaining half. The term of the grant will begin upon application approval which is anticipated to be late January or early February and is scheduled to end with the grant term (3 years). The annual matching fund allocation for the coming Fiscal Year is up to \$750,000, although the City does not anticipate needing the entire amount, based on the estimated cost of the project..

If awarded, the City will use the funds from this Post Closure Matching Site Cleanup Grant for the following qualifying purposes:

- To ensure that nearby residents, the visiting public, and the surrounding environment are safe from offsite migration of landfill gases;
- To set-up a Landfill Gas Collection and Control System to properly destroy landfill generated gas in order to maintain compliance with local, State and Federal requirements.

Environmental Services staff will oversee the administrative portion of the project, with Engineering staff providing design and construction management. The Facilities Division will maintain the gas extraction system once it is complete and placed into operation.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The primary source of funds for the project will be available reserves in the Solid Waste Fund. If project construction costs come in at the estimated \$868,000 and all of these costs are determined to be eligible costs under the matching grant, the Solid Waste Fund reserves would receive reimbursement of \$434,000.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The project is designed to mitigate the offsite migration of landfill gasses that could potentially pose a threat to human and environmental health and safety.

PREPARED BY: Karen Guntow, Environmental Service Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Samario, Finance Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office