

#3.1

Agenda Item
For Board Meeting of: January 17, 2019

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: JOE SCHWALL, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SUBREGIONAL
OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE SONOMA ORGANIC WASTE PROCESSING
(SOWP) FACILITY PROJECT, PROGRESS TO DATE

AGENDA ACTION: NO ACTION REQUESTED

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for the Board's information and no action will be taken.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will present an informational session to the Board on the progress to date of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency's ("Agency") efforts to site a solid organic waste composting facility within Sonoma County. Santa Rosa Water chose to participate in the siting process, anticipating that mutual benefits could be realized by siting the facility adjacent to the Laguna Treatment Plant (LTP). Staff will provide a review of the history of the process, where the process stands today, and expected next steps.

BACKGROUND

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency ("Agency") is a joint powers authority whose mission is to implement waste diversion programs as required by State law, a cornerstone of which is composting. From 1993 until 2015, the Agency contracted with Sonoma Compost to provide composting services for solid organic waste (primarily vegetative matter, including curb-side collection) at the Sonoma County landfill on Meham Rd. However, in 2015 the facility was forced to close due to storm water run-off issues. Since that time, solid organic wastes have been transported to locations outside of the county as the Agency seeks another site for a similar processing facility.

In May 2017, the Agency issued an RFP soliciting responses from parties interested in owning and operating a solid organic waste compost facility in Sonoma County. In July of that year, in support of the Agency's efforts and believing there could be mutually beneficial synergistic effects from locating such a facility adjacent to the Laguna Treatment Plant (LTP), Santa Rosa Water issued a separate RFP soliciting interest in

leasing city property near LTP as the site for the compost facility. Proposals were received by August 2017, reviewed in October, and in December 2017 the Board approved Letters of Intent to Negotiate to four proposers on the Agency's project.

Subsequently, the Agency selected Renewable Sonoma as the most responsive proposer for the solid organic waste compost facility operator. Renewable Sonoma's proposal included locating receiving, composting, and anaerobic digestion facilities adjacent to LTP.

Prior to entering into an agreement with the Agency to provide organic waste processing, Renewable Sonoma must first reach an agreement with the City of Santa Rosa regarding any future use of City-owned property for the facility. As a first step, staff is working toward developing an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement (ENA) with Renewable Sonoma to establish a mutual understanding of the scope of the potential project and basis to negotiate appropriate agreements, including but not limited to a Site Lease. Once an ENA is executed, staff anticipates then working toward developing and negotiating a site lease and project agreement.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On July 6, 2017, the Board participated in a Staff Briefing to review the status of the City's collaboration with the Agency.

On December 7, 2017, the Board heard a Staff Briefing and approved the four Letters of Intent to Negotiate for location of the organics processing facility.

On October 18, 2018, progress on the selection and siting process was included in a Staff Briefing on Biosolids Update.

ANALYSIS

With Board approval, Santa Rosa Water has provided Renewable Sonoma with a Letter of Intent to Negotiate regarding locating a solid organic waste processing facility adjacent to LTP in anticipation of mutual benefits derived from synergistic processes between the two facilities. Such benefits remain undefined at this time, but potential benefits are expected to be identified and quantified while formulating a lease agreement between Renewable Sonoma and the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no anticipated costs to the City as this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in

the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

CONTACT

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