



**MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council  
**THRU:** Susan Norton, Chief of Staff  
**FROM:** Peter Nierengarten, Environmental Director  
**DATE:** December 15, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** **EPA SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING GRANT APPLICATION**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN EPA SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$4,000,000.00 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S RECYCLING PROCESSING FACILITY

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2020 the EPA announced the national recycling goal to "increase the U.S. recycling rate by 50 percent by 2030 and to galvanize efforts to strengthen the U. S. recycling system". One year later the EPA released the National Recycling Strategy: Building a Circular Economy for All, the same day funding was made available to support this strategy when the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was signed into law. The National Recycling Strategy proposes building a circular economy to reduce material use, redesign materials to be less resource intensive, and recapturing waste as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.

The SWIFR grant program is funded through the 2021 BIL and is designed to fund a wide variety of projects to transform solid waste infrastructure in the United States to equitably reduce waste and manage materials to achieve a circular economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create cleaner, resilient, and healthier communities. It is anticipated that projects will enable the EPA to help eligible partners advance from "where they are" to significantly transform their post-consumer materials management infrastructure. Projects will create new capacity for, optimize existing capacity of, or identify strategies that result in an increase in management of post-consumer materials. The EPA also recognizes and encourages applications that demonstrate innovative solutions and programs that provide or increase access to reuse, recycling, and composting opportunities to areas and populations that currently do not have access.

EPA SWIFR grant awards are designed for capital improvement projects and cities may request up to \$4M with no matching requirement.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City Council passed Resolution No.282-21 on November 16, 2021 approving a contract agreement with Hawkins-Weir Engineering for design and bidding services for improvements to the City's Recycling Processing Facility.

In 2022 Hawkins-Weir Engineers performed on-site inspection of the existing facilities to evaluate and design

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improvements and repairs for the City transfer station and to further consider improvements, retrofits, and expansion options for the adjacent recycling processing facility (RPF). Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) was brought onto the project to assess the RPF, estimate future quantities of recyclables and RPF sizing requirements, identify sorting and processing equipment needs, develop conceptual layouts for RPF expansions and improvements, and develop a planning level financial assessment of capital and operating costs for RPF options.

Hawkins-Weir Engineers developed three conceptual facility expansion layout options and presented the City with a Technical Memorandum detailing the advantages and disadvantages of the options. The Technical Memorandum addressed RPF sizing requirements and sorting and processing options, possible phasing and financial assessments of the three options.

Ultimately, staff in consultation with Hawkins-Weir and Kessler Consulting determined that option 3 which expands the existing RPF to the south and west is the most feasible and useful over the long-term. This option expands existing bale storage space and tip floor and replaces the existing 30-year old bailer with a new bailer equipped with a conveyor and sort line.

If the City were selected, the EPA SWIFR grant would fund upto \$4M would be utilized to pay for the RPF expansion project.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

There is not a match requirement associated with the \$4,000,000 EPA SWIFR grant request, however, Recycling and Trash Division proposes utilizing \$1,400,000 from CIP funds and \$2,247,000 from fund balance to fully fund the expansion of the City’s Recycling Processing Facility for a complete project cost of \$7,647,000.

<b>Item/Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
Site Development	\$ 766,000
Buildings	\$ 3,280,000
Equipment	\$ 1,452,000
Mobilization & General Conditions	\$ 687,000
Design & Development Fees	\$ 912,000
Contingency	\$ 550,000
<b>Total RPF Improvements Cost</b>	<b>\$ 7,647,000</b>
<b>Funding</b>	
Recycling & Trash CIP	\$ 1,400,000
Recycling & Trash Fund Balance	\$ 2,247,000
EPA Grant Match Request	\$ 4,000,000
<b>TOTAL RPF Funding</b>	<b>\$ 7,647,000</b>

**ATTACHMENTS:** Staff Review Form, EPA Grant SWIFR Request for Applications, Fayetteville Recycling Processing Facility Expansion – Conceptual Layouts and Financial Assessment (Kessler Consulting/Hawkins-Weir Engineers), RESOLUTION- APPLICATION FOR EPA SWIFR GRANT