

## AGENDA



Thursday, January 31, 2008

**Solid Waste Services  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 73**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) grant funds of \$40,000 under the 2008 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget, Solid Waste Services Department Special Revenue Fund, of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$40,000 to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility Activity of the Waste Diversion Program to support a North Austin satellite collection station.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from CAPCOG and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under the 2008 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Donald Hardee, 974-4345 or William E. Rhodes, P.E, Director, 974-1970

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The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) distributes funds to manage various solid waste projects within the CAPCOG jurisdiction, through the Regional Solid Waste Grant Program.

The purpose of this project is to provide a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile event to increase the City of Austin and Travis County disposal rate of household hazardous waste. A participation survey will be used to extract household data and used to investigate the need for a potential permanent north City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

The goal of this project is to provide an intermediate solution to a future permanent north Austin HHW collection facility. The City of Austin has a permanent HHW collection facility located in southeast Austin, which may be inconvenient to residents living in north Austin. To help ease this burden and promote proper household hazardous waste disposal, a mobile collection event will be held in conjunction with the City of Austin Clean Sweep Program. Clean Sweep is a citywide effort coordinated through Solid Waste Services, Parks and Recreation, and Watershed Protection Planning and Review Departments. The mobile event will be held on April 5, at Anderson High School, located at 8403 Mesa Dr. It is through the support of this endeavor that we hope to focus attention on the environmental impact of illegal dumping and allow people living in north Austin a more accessible opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste responsibly.

We will also be addressing Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) recycling, through fliers and handouts. We currently accept CFLs and other fluorescent tubes at the south HHW facility. As the population swells in the region, energy usage will inevitably increase. CFLs help reduce energy demand and are becoming more popular with the public. We should be encouraging households to not only utilize the energy efficient CFLs over incandescent bulbs, but also dispose of them through HHW collections; thereby reducing the cumulative negative impact on landfills that may occur, as stated in the September 2007 report, Market Analysis of Recoverable Materials, by R.W. Beck.

Furthermore, as the regional population increases, so does the need for expanded facilities. Turnout for this mobile event will bolster data used in addressing the need for a future permanent north Austin HHW facility. This permanent facility would provide access and incentive for those looking to dispose of waste in north Austin, that would otherwise not, based on convenience. As part of a standing inter local

agreement, Travis County residents may also bring their household hazardous waste for disposal at the mobile event, as well as the permanent HHW facility.

The geographic area affected includes the political boundaries of the City of Austin, as well as the whole of Travis County. The specific waste stream targeted is household hazardous waste and parallels what is taken at the permanent HHW collection facility. The estimated number of customers served at this mobile event is 1,000 households.