

AGENDA



Thursday, November 5, 2009

**Solid Waste Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 35

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of \$20,000 in grant funding from the Capital Area Council of Governments 2009 Regional Grant Program to support an on-site latex paint rebrending pilot project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$20,000 is available from CAPCOG and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under the 2009 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. Matching funds are not required.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Tammie Williamson, (512) 974-1997 or Donald Hardee, (512) 974-4345

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Commission.

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. This action seeks Council authorization to apply for and accept \$20,000 in grant funding from CAPCOG for an on-site latex paint rebrending pilot project. Grant funds would pay for the equipment used to provide on-site rebrending of the latex paint currently received at the Solid Waste Service Department's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal facility. Grant funding would also be utilized to implement an accompanying public outreach and education campaign.

Approximately 50% of all incoming materials dropped off at the HHW facility is latex paint. Currently, the paint is driven by City staff to an off-site vendor located 25 miles away for mixing and then, once blended, driven back to the HHW facility for use by City departments. The paint is also given away to local non-profits. Using CAPCOG funding to develop an on-site blending pilot program and public education campaign is consistent with the City's Zero Waste Plan, Climate Protection Plan, Green Building, and Water Quality Protection initiatives in the following ways:

1. SWS would experience an overall cost savings of approximately 40% in the price per gallon to blend the paint by relying more on the on-site pilot program and less on the off-site contracted services;
2. SWS would experience a reduction in vehicle maintenance requirements and fuel consumption while also reducing the Department's carbon footprint;
3. At least 15% less latex paint would be landfilled because staff will have the ability to process the volume of paint that cannot currently be processed fast enough by the off-site contractor;
4. SWS will be able to locally produce a low-VOC paint accepted by the Austin Energy Green Builder program; and
5. Through the public outreach and education campaign, residents would be encouraged to recycle all types of paint and discourage illegal dumping of paint that could potentially contaminate Austin's local watershed.

The grant funding will also give SWS the ability to assess the feasibility of expanding the latex paint rebrending program to a revenue based model in which the low-VOC rebrended latex paint is sold to the public.