

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION CITY OF SAN DIEGO	CERTIFICATE NUMBER (FOR COMPTROLLER'S USE ONLY)
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TO: CITY COUNCIL	FROM (ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT): Environmental Services	DATE: 11/28/2016
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SUBJECT: Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food Container Recycling Study

PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE): Angela Colton,(858) 573-1287/1103B	SECONDARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE): Chelsea Klaseus, (858) 492-5087/1103B
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COMPLETE FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES

FUND					
FUNCTIONAL AREA					
COST CENTER					
GENERAL LEDGER ACCT					
WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER					
CAPITAL PROJECT No.					
AMOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FUND					
FUNCTIONAL AREA					
COST CENTER					
GENERAL LEDGER ACCT					
WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER					
CAPITAL PROJECT No.					
AMOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

COST SUMMARY (IF APPLICABLE): N/A

ROUTING AND APPROVALS

CONTRIBUTORS/REVIEWERS:	APPROVING AUTHORITY	APPROVAL SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED
Liaison Office	ORIG DEPT.	Sierra, Mario	11/28/2016
	CFO		
	DEPUTY CHIEF	Gomez, Paz	11/29/2016
	COO		
	CITY ATTORNEY		
	COUNCIL PRESIDENTS OFFICE		

PREPARATION OF: RESOLUTIONS ORDINANCE(S) AGREEMENT(S) DEED(S)

Informational Item only

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:
This is an information item only. No action is required by the Committee or Council.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (REFER TO A.R. 3.20 FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THIS SECTION)

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):	ALL
COMMUNITY AREA(S):	ALL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:	N/A
CITY CLERK	N/A

INSTRUCTIONS:	
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COUNCIL ACTION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE: 11/28/2016

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food Container Recycling Study

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): ALL

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Angela Colton/(858) 573-1287/1103B

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM:

This is an informational item to provide additional information regarding the Environment Committee presentation on October 12, 2016 of an Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) food service container study regarding the benefits and concerns of adding EPS food service containers to the City's residential curbside recycling program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item only. No action is required by the Committee or Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM BACKGROUND:

On July 13, 2015, the City's Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) was adopted. The ZWP lays out potential diversion strategies, and provides a foundation for ongoing incremental improvements towards ensuring compliance with current state diversion requirements and achieving the goal of "zero waste" by 2040. In order to achieve the first diversion strategy of 75% by 2020, which mirrors Assembly Bill 341's statewide diversion goal, an estimated additional 332,000 tons per year need to be diverted from landfill disposal.

In considering the strategies outlined in the ZWP, strategies have to be developed by evaluating opportunities, technologies, costs and regulatory mandates, all while ensuring measurable diversion improvements, synergies between efforts and a sustainable funding mechanism that will allow for a continuance of existing programs.

One diversion strategy identified in the ZWP is adding materials to the City's curbside recyclable materials collection program as markets develop for those materials. In particular, staff was asked to research the benefits and identify any possible concerns if expanded polystyrene (EPS) food service containers are added to the City's curbside recyclable materials collection program.

Under the People's Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code §66.0127), City forces collect recyclable materials from City serviced residences. On December 14, 1998, through a competitive process, the City awarded a contract to IMS Recycling Services and Allan Company (collectively "Contractor") for processing, transporting and marketing the commingled curbside materials that the City forces collect from residents and deliver to their two material recovery facilities (MRF). The contract is due to end in June 30, 2019.

Adding materials is a long term commitment that requires outreach and education to create a change of behavior on the part of all participants. Analysis and consultation with the Contractor is required in order to understand the impact of adding materials to the program. In 2004, #3-7

plastic non-CRV bottles and jars, and shredded paper were added to the program. In 2010, all rigid plastics, including tubs, trays and buckets, were added. In 2011, aseptic carton packages for food and beverages were included. In 2014, EPS dimensional packaging was added.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE DIRECTION

At the October 12, 2016 meeting of the Environment Committee, Environmental Services Department (ESD) staff gave an informational presentation to present the findings of the EPS food service container study. Based on the findings and the City's contractual obligations for processing recyclable materials, staff indicated EPS food service containers would not be included in the curbside recycling program. The Committee requested ESD staff to obtain additional information and return to Committee.

Upon further research, the City's Contractor identified an alternative that would allow EPS food service containers to be recycled at a lesser cost than the original estimate of \$290,000. The Contractor currently sends various grades of residual plastic materials to a secondary processor for further sorting. The secondary processor uses optical sorting equipment to sort and capture the various grades of the plastic materials. EPS food service containers could be added to this process for recycling. The Contractor estimates that processing and transportation costs would be approximately \$90,000 annually.

STAFF FINDINGS

EPS food service containers will be added to the City's curbside recycling program. Clean EPS food containers are recyclable. EPS food service containers should be eliminated from the landfill, consistent with the City's Zero Waste Plan. The approximate date to include EPS food service containers in the City's curbside recyclable materials program is July 1, 2017. This time will allow for a contract amendment to be executed and for staff to conduct an educational outreach campaign.

CITY STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S):

Goal 3: Create and sustain a resilient and economically prosperous City

Objective 4: Prepare and respond to climate change

Objective 5: Enhance San Diego's global standing

Goal 2: Work in partnership with all of our communities to achieve safe and livable neighborhoods

Objective 4: Foster services that improve quality of life

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE): N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION (describe any changes made to the item from what was presented at committee):

At the October 12, 2016 meeting of the Environment Committee, Environmental Services Department (ESD) staff gave an informational presentation to present the findings of the EPS food service container study. Based on the findings and on the City's contractual obligations for processing recyclable materials, staff indicated that EPS food service containers would not be included in the curbside recycling program. At that time, the Committee requested ESD staff to obtain more information and return to Committee.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Discussions about recycling EPS food service containers came up during Zero Waste Stakeholder meetings which included a wide range of groups and individuals, including residents, businesses, military, haulers, recyclers, and trade groups and associations. Following the October 12, 2016 Environment Committee meeting, ESD staff reached out to Clarissa Reyes Falcon, Falcon Strategies. On behalf of her client, Dart, she offered densifiers through a grant program from the Foodservice Packaging Institute, and expressed interest in assisting with the educational content and possibly materials.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS: N/A

Sierra, Mario
Originating Department

Gomez, Paz
Deputy Chief/Chief Operating Officer