



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of March 30, 2021

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**DATE:** March 30, 2021

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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<p><b><u>Professional Services Contract</u></b> <b><u>Solid Waste Compost Facility</u></b></p>
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**CAPTION:**

Motion awarding a professional services contract to Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc., Dallas, TX, to provide conceptual design, process design, and permitting services for a new Solid Waste Compost Facility, located in Council District 3, in an amount not to exceed \$126,508.00, with FY 2021 funding available from the Landfill Capital Fund.

**SUMMARY:**

This motion awards a professional services contract to provide conceptual design, process design, and permitting services for a new Solid Waste Compost Facility. This contract represents Phase 1 of work including conceptual design and permitting to develop the new compost facility. Phase 2 will include recommendations for the design, bid, and construction of the facility.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The J.C. Elliot Landfill and Transfer Station has been in operation since the 1970s and is located on approximately 158-acres of City property. The Corpus Christi community utilizes the landfill and transfer station for waste disposal.

Due to increasing customer demand for operations and composting, the J.C. Elliot Landfill has outgrown its facilities and existing space for new usage is limited. The Solid Waste Department has proposed the development of a Solid Waste Facility Complex to meet both the City's and residents' growing needs. The proposed Solid Waste Facility Complex consists of three major projects: a new administration building, a new transfer station (including consolidated fueling and parking for the transfer and collection fleets), and a new compost facility. City staff has achieved

several important milestones in the development of this project, including City Council approval in August 2020 to purchase 92 acres of farmland adjacent to the current J.C. Elliott Transfer Station (an ideal location to consolidate Solid Waste Department operations), Request for Qualification solicitation, and selection of professional engineers for the design of the new administration building, transfer station, and compost facility projects.

Currently, Corpus Christi does not have the capacity to process organic solid waste materials that can be diverted from landfilling through composting. Typically, approximately half of municipal waste that is landfilled can potentially be recycled as compost material if segregated appropriately. Processing select organic waste by manufacturing compost would prolong the life of the City's landfill. A composting program utilizing the available wastewater sludge, yard waste, food waste, ground brush, and other feedstock would divert an estimated 120,000 cubic yards of raw mixed organic materials per year to composting, thereby conserving valuable landfill space for non-composted materials. The new facility will require a "Registration Tier" authorization by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

To achieve the requirements mentioned, this project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 will entail conducting an analysis of the site to determine its composting capacity after considering the land requirements necessary for the operation of the transfer station, administration building, and fleet services complex. Phase 1 will include development of a conceptual process and facility design, appropriate for TCEQ authorization. This phase of the project will include TCEQ authorization of the composting facility operation, stormwater permitting and authorization of an ongoing compost refund from TCEQ. This also will include the opinion of probable costs and is estimated to be completed in four months.

Phase 2 of the project will be presented to Council at a future date this year. Phase 2 will include development of detailed plans and specifications for construction, construction cost estimate, construction bid administration and construction phase services.

The design for the transfer station, administration building, and fleet services complex will be presented to Council later this year.

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

The projected preliminary schedule reflects City Council award in March 2021, with conceptual design, process design, and permitting completion anticipated in January 2022. The project schedule is dependent on timely issuance of Notice to Proceed and is based on estimated time periods for TCEQ review and response. Phase 2 will commence after completion of Phase 1.

## **COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION PROCESS:**

Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc. was selected for the Professional Engineering Service in August 2020 under RFQ 3222, and the Solid Waste Compost Facility was the only project announced in the RFQ. Three firms submitted qualifications for this project announcement.

The selection committee was comprised with representatives from the Solid Waste Department, Public Works Department, and Engineering Services Department. The final evaluation ranked Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc. the highest scorer and recommended the firm as most qualified based five factors: 1) experience of the firm, 2) experience of the key personnel with specific experience in solid waste including work supporting composting, landfills, recycling and hauling, 3) project approach and management plan, 4) capacity to meet the project requirements and timelines, and 5) past performance on projects of similar size and scope.

Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc. is an environmental engineering firm with over 17 years of

specialized experience in solid waste and composting. Risa Weinberger, P.E., the Project Manager and lead engineer for composting has over 40 years of specialized experience in solid waste and composting. Some of the recent projects include composting, landfills, recycling and hauling, permitting, design, feasibility, market analysis, and training program development and implementation for this type of professional services. This project will be their first time working with the City of Corpus Christi.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is to not approve the proposed professional services agreement; however, the new compost facility is an approved project in the Solid Waste Department CIP for FY 2021 and it will cause a delay in the development of the new Solid Waste Facility Complex and new Compost Facility if this professional services agreement is not approved.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact in FY 2021 is an amount of \$126,508.00, with funding available from the Landfill Capital Fund.

#### **FUNDING DETAIL:**

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) shows the project is planned for FY 2021.

Fund:	Landfill 2018TCO (Fund 3369)
Mission Elem:	Maintaining Solid Waste Facilities (031)
Project:	Solid Waste Compost Facility (Project No. 20288): Please reference project 21007 in the FY 2020-2021 Capital Budget
Account:	Outside Consultants (550950)
Activity:	20288-3369-EXP
Amount:	\$126,508.00

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends award of the professional services contract in the amount of \$126,508 to Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc.

#### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Location and Vicinity Maps  
Contract