



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 16

Agenda Date: October 21, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Historic Preservation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Shanon Shea Miller

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

2022-2023 Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or designee to submit a grant application for approximately \$196,000 to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) representing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grants support environmental programming efforts related to recycling, solid waste stream reduction and municipal enforcement of anti-dumping laws. This ordinance also authorizes the City Manager or designee to accept grant funds, execute contracts between the City and AACOG for any of the grants awarded, and allow for supplemental grant applications, and their acceptance if awarded, should AACOG make additional funds available during their 2021-2022 grant cycle process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 1996, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has provided statewide grants to area Councils of Government for distribution to municipal and local agencies; cities, counties, and public school districts. These funds are generated by fees imposed by the State on volumes of disposed municipal solid waste. Historically the City of San Antonio's Solid Waste

Management Department (SWMD) has been awarded the majority of these grants, with Code Compliance, Public Works, Health, Parks and Recreation, Convention, Sports and Entertainment Facilities and the City Clerk's Office receiving funding from this program in the past as well. Since 1996, the City has received over \$4.8 million from this program. The City received \$213,000 from the 2020-2021 grant.

ISSUE:

The purpose of the grants is to enable the City of San Antonio to expand its efforts to enhancing environmental sustainability and waste reduction in accordance with AACOG's Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Last grant cycle, Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) utilized \$39,000 in funding to produce the study *Treasure in the Walls* which explores the benefits of a local deconstruction program. The draft deconstruction policy components align with waste diversion and materials circularity goals outlined in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and affordable housing repair and production targets in alignment with the Housing Policy Framework.

A local deconstruction program is anticipated to divert approximately 20,000 tons of construction and demolition waste annually from local landfills. The program is also expected advance the goals and objectives of the City's strategic plans related to housing, environmental sustainability, economic development, and equity.

If awarded, the funds would be used toward the creation of a Reuse Innovation Center. A Reuse Innovation Center could serve as a site for material receivership, inventory, and distribution, provide community education and workforce development space, and jumpstart a center for material innovation and technological advancement in the reuse of reclaimed materials. Models for similar centers exist in Houston, Vancouver, and Charlotte, and there is a growing trend of municipalities nationwide playing a major role in supporting material reuse and redistribution in order to reduce landfill waste and advance the circular economy.

ALTERNATIVES:

OHP would need to identify alternate funds to support efforts related to the draft deconstruction and salvaging policy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the application and acceptance of up to \$196,000 in grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grants for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through the Alamo Area Council of Governments to fund a number of strategies supporting a local deconstruction program including a Reuse Innovation Center. There is no cash match requirement for this grant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to submit applications to the FY 2022 and 2023 TCEQ Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant and acceptance if awarded.