



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
January 27, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Terrance Davis, Director, Public Works

Subject: Contract No. 32100070 Amendment: Urban Ore, Inc. for Salvage Operations  
at the City of Berkeley Transfer Station

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations of reusable materials at the City's Transfer Station, increasing the contract by \$75,000 from \$189,848 to a new not to exceed amount of \$264,848 and extending the term through June 30, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this amendment is available in the FY2026 adopted budget in Zero Waste Fund 601.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

For the past 25 years, Urban Ore has salvaged more than 800 tons annually of reusable materials from the City of Berkeley's Transfer Station. Those items are resold at Urban Ore's retail store located at the intersection of Ashby Avenue and 7th Street in West Berkeley.

This contract extension will allow the City to continue to reduce materials to be landfilled, supporting increased diversion and the City's Zero Waste Goal. The amendment will increase the not-to-exceed amount to cover regular operations and extend existing service levels until June 30, 2027.

The Urban Ore salvage program is a Strategic Plan Priority Project that advances our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

Since 2000, the Urban Ore Salvage and Recycling operation has stationed a box truck and staffing at the City's Transfer Station during regular business hours to salvage reusable household goods and building materials from discarded objects. Urban Ore staff identify reusable items from loads delivered to the Transfer Station by Zero Waste

employees. In many cases, discarded materials are salvaged and prepared for resale, which allows those materials to be diverted from waste streams.

For more than a decade, Urban Ore has been the only local salvage operation able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the City's Transfer Station, while maintaining a local retail outlet for salvaged goods and materials. Urban Ore's proven safety record, environmental commitment, and quality customer service have made them an important City partner.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The Urban Ore mission statement, "our purpose is to end the age of waste by advocating and developing total recycling," demonstrates a committed environmental vision with recycling as a key component to all aspects of their operation. Urban Ore has reclaimed more than 800 tons annually from the City's Transfer Station, which increases the City's diversion rate, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This salvage and reuse/recycling program supports increased diversion of materials from landfills and helps move the City toward its Zero Waste Goal. In addition, the Transfer Station's operational expenses associated with waste hauling are also reduced.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Opting to discontinue this salvageable waste diversion program will increase City use of area landfills, increase greenhouse gas emissions from long-haul transportation of waste materials, and will negatively impact the Zero Waste Division budget. Alternative service providers to operate this contract have not been identified, due to the unique nature of this work and the requirements for a nearby storefront to resale the salvageable items.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Leticia Jauregui, Solid Waste and Recycling Division Manager (510) 981-6362

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32100070 AMENDMENT: URBAN ORE, INC. FOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS AT THE CITY'S TRANSFER STATION

WHEREAS, Urban Ore is the only local salvage operation able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the Transfer Station, which reduces landfill-bound waste by 800 tons each year by returning useable materials to the community; and

WHEREAS, this salvage and reuse/recycling program helps move the City toward its zero waste goals, while reducing the Transfer Station's operational expenses associated with increased landfill use, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by long-haul trucks; and

WHEREAS, Urban Ore's proven safety record, environmental commitment, and quality customer service have made them an important zero waste partner; and

WHEREAS, Council on July 1, 2020, by Resolution 69,434-N.S. Council authorized Contract No. 32100070; and,

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2023, the City Manager of the City of Berkeley authorized an amendment extending the Contract through June 30, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2023, by Resolution No. 71,003, the Berkeley City Council authorized an amendment of said Contract; and,

WHEREAS, funding for this contract amendment is available in Zero Waste Fund 601.

WHEREAS, the Urban Ore salvage program is a Strategic Plan Priority Project that advances our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, opting to discontinue this salvageable waste removal and diversion program will increase City use of area landfills, and negatively impact the Zero Waste Division budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations at the City's Transfer Station increasing the Contract by \$75,000 from \$189,848 to \$264,848 for a new not to exceed amount of \$264,848 and extending the contract term by two years through June 30, 2027. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

