



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 13, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Public Works

Subject: Contract Award: First Carbon Solutions, Inc. for California Environmental Quality Act Compliance for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Replacement Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to award a contract with First Carbon Solutions, Inc. for California Environmental Quality Act compliance for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Replacement Project for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for a contract term of November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

SUMMARY

City will contract with First Carbon Solutions, Inc. per its July 2, 2020 submittal. Their staff and subcontractors are well versed in conducting all required studies, soliciting all regulatory and community input, and compliance with California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA) requirements for the proposed Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station (SW&RTS) replacement.

This contract will evaluate the two (2) concepts developed by the Solid Waste and Recycling Transfer Station Feasibility Study and reviewed at the City Council's November 5, 2019 Work Session<sup>1</sup> for the replacement of the City's existing Transfer Station and Material Recovery facilities.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract has been appropriated in the FY 2021 Zero Waste Fund budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Gaining CEQA compliance for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Replacement Project advances several of the City's Strategic Plan priorities:

- Be a customer-focused organization and facilities that provides excellent, timely, easily accessible services and information to the community,

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Solid\\_Waste/Solid%20Waste%20and%20Recycling%20Transfer%20Station%20Feasibility%20Study%20Report%20to%20Council%2011.5.19%20Part1.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Solid_Waste/Solid%20Waste%20and%20Recycling%20Transfer%20Station%20Feasibility%20Study%20Report%20to%20Council%2011.5.19%20Part1.pdf)

- Provide state-of-the-art and well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities, and
- Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

Without the replacement of the existing facilities, the City cannot meet its Zero Waste or 2009 Climate Action Plan goals. These facilities are beyond their projected and useful life; making it challenging to comply with continuously evolving environmental requirements and safety regulations.

On July 24, 2018, City Council<sup>2</sup> authorized retaining Zero Waste Collaborative, Inc. to conduct a Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Feasibility Study (Study). The Study's goal was the development of conceptual layouts (minimum of two concepts) with collaborative, robust and extensive community and business members' input.

Consistent with the Zero Waste Commission's prior support and City Council's input and direction, the City is ready to take this necessary next step in the process to ensure CEQA compliance and ultimately replace these facilities.

## BACKGROUND

The current Transfer Station (TS) was built in 1983 and various recycling facilities added in the 1980s and 90s. These facilities handle all of the City's and vendor curbside collected and self-haul refuse; dual stream recycling; and green/food waste materials on a 7.45 acre site. The current facilities consist of:

- Transfer Station 20,700 sq. ft.
- Late 1980s addition of Berkeley's Recycling, which includes:
  - 1) Material Recovery Facility (MRF) 21,900 sq. ft.
  - 2) Residential recyclable materials drop-off 4,400 sq. ft.
  - 3) Residential Universal Waste drop-off 700 sq. ft.
  - 4) California Redemption Value (CRV) Buyback Center 6,600 sq. ft.
- In 1990s, residential recycle collection vendor was allocated 6,000 sq. ft. space for an office/operations yard.

In 2019, the TS handled 78,000+ tons of refuse; 15,000+ tons of construction and demolition debris; 33,000+ tons of compostable organic (green/food) materials, and 2,500 tons of miscellaneous recyclable materials. The MRF annually accepts, processes and markets approximately 15,000+ tons of mixed paper; cardboard; rigid plastics; and plastic, aluminum, steel and glass containers.

An integrated facility would ensure the City's flexibility to accept a variety of materials and provide the ability to increase diversion. In addition, it would ensure environmentally compliant methods will be implemented—not only for today but for many decades to

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/.../2018-07-24\\_Item\\_39\\_Contract\\_Zero\\_Waste\\_Collaborative.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/.../2018-07-24_Item_39_Contract_Zero_Waste_Collaborative.aspx)

follow—in the handling and processing of refuse, fiber and container recyclables, and compostable materials.

The current facilities are not integrated and operations cannot be coordinated to provide the facilities' customers easy access to drop-off refuse, recyclable and organic waste materials. These facilities do not meet current seismic requirements, have not been upgraded or improved since constructed, have exceeded their useful and serviceable life, and are unable support the City's Zero Waste Goal.

The primary goals of the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Feasibility Study (Study) were to:

- Solicit extensive community members' and stakeholders' ideas, direction,
- Put these ideas on paper and solicit additional community members input and direction, and
- To provide input on the community's vision for a Material Resource Park (name to be determined by community members with City Council input and concurrence).

Community members and stakeholders envisioned a facility that would allow the City to divert additional materials for reuse or recycling that are currently being landfilled. The two (2) concepts were the result of many hours of input by City staff, community members and business members, and vendors (that are contracted with the City through the Zero Waste Division's operations). These listening/input sessions and meetings were conducted throughout the City and included:

- September 27, 2018: Zero Waste Collaborative, Inc., presented to the Interim Deputy City Manager (now DCM); Public Works, Planning, Finance and Information Technology Department Directors; and other staff on the Study's goals and milestones.
- November 7, 28, and December 1, 2018 (Central Public Library, South Berkeley Senior Center, Live Oak Community Center): Community member and stakeholder initial visioning and listening sessions to solicit input on their ideas for the facility's development to meet zero waste goals (totaling 8 hours).
- January 16, 17 and 18, 2019 (James Kenney Community Center): community presentations of the facility's development options based on the input from the initial listening sessions followed with robust and extensive community members' and stakeholders' input on the facility's development options (totaling 9 hours).
- March 14, 15 and May 22, 2019 (James Kenney Community Center, North Berkeley Public Library, West Branch Public Library: Presentation to all community members and stakeholders based on the January 2019 input and revisions of facility's development options (totaling 8 hours).
- June 24, 2019: Presentation of the finalized facility's development options and

potential environmental impacts to the Zero Waste Commission<sup>3</sup>.

As noted above, the Study's contractor was tasked to transfer these community members' best ideas into concept(s) on paper and then to solicit additional community members' input. With this significant public input, the Study<sup>4</sup> identified two (2) concepts with up to a 10% design level and included preliminary budgetary cost estimates and potential financing options.

At a November 5, 2019 City Council Work Session, the Council reviewed the two preliminary concepts to provide feedback and direction on the replacement of the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station (SW&RTS) located at 1201 Second Street. The two (2) concepts proposed for the site's existing footprint are:

**Concept A:** Material Recovery Facility & Transfer Station is one (1) building that includes:

- Drop-off and California Redemption Value Buyback 32,000 sq. ft.
- Material Recovery Facility 33,000 sq. ft.
- Transfer Station 41,000 sq. ft.
- Landscaping and Codornices Creek walk 49,000 sq. ft.
- Admin. Office with Education Center, classrooms 7,300 sq. ft.
- Vehicle Maintenance Building 6,000 sq. ft.
- Vehicle parking (110+ service vehicles) 62,000 sq. ft.
- Permeable paved area 22,000 sq. ft.
- Sidewalks 39,500 sq. ft.
- Asphalt and concrete paving area 82,000 sq. ft.

**Concept B:** Material Recovery Facility & Transfer Station in two (2) separate buildings that includes:

- Drop-off and California Redemption Value Buyback 24,000 sq. ft.
- Material Recovery Facility 35,000 sq. ft.
- Transfer Station 46,000 sq. ft.
- Landscaping and Codornices Creek walk 42,000 sq. ft.
- Admin. Office with Education Center, classrooms 9,100 sq. ft.
- Vehicle Maintenance Building 7,000 sq. ft.
- Vehicle parking (110+ service vehicles) 79,000 sq. ft.
- Permeable paved area 14,000 sq. ft.
- Sidewalks 39,500 sq. ft.
- Asphalt and Concrete paved area 80,000 sq. ft.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Solid\\_Waste/2019%20June%2024%20Agenda%20Packet%20v2.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Solid_Waste/2019%20June%2024%20Agenda%20Packet%20v2.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Solid\\_Waste/Solid%20Waste%20and%20Recycling%20Transfer%20Station%20Feasibility%20Study%20Report%20to%20Council%2011.5.19%20Part1.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Solid_Waste/Solid%20Waste%20and%20Recycling%20Transfer%20Station%20Feasibility%20Study%20Report%20to%20Council%2011.5.19%20Part1.pdf)

For the City to sustain or expand its infrastructure required to support the City's waste reduction efforts and to meet its Zero Waste Goal, the City will need to replace these significantly aged facilities. To maximize these program services and infrastructure flexibility, these facilities need to be integrated and function seamlessly together to support the City's Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Goal.

The City Council authorized a Resolution for Request for Proposal (RFP) Specification No. 20-11390-C on February 11, 2020<sup>5</sup>. First Carbon Solutions, Inc. submitted the most qualified and responsive proposal as required by the RFP's solicitation.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The proposed conceptual plans and CEQA compliance efforts will ensure that, as an enterprise funded operation, the City's Public Works Zero Waste Division will have state-of-the-art Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer facilities to support:

- Customers' ease of use and interface of these facilities to promote additional recycling and reuse opportunities,
- The expansion of the City's efforts to meet its Zero Waste Goals, which are a key component of the 2009 Climate Action Plan,
- Compliance with legislation to increase and enhance recycling; organic diversion and composting; and the City's single use disposable foodware and litter reduction ordinance,
- Handling of all residential, multi-family and commercial curbside collection of: refuse; dual stream recyclable materials processing and marketing; and green/food waste, and
- Flexibility to handle anticipated long-term market volatility in the recycling commodity markets.

As Berkeley continues to reduce the volume of materials being landfilled and to move more recyclable materials from the refuse carts/bins to the recycle and compost carts/bins, the City's infrastructure has to follow suit. Yet it is in drastic need of replacement to support the City's ambitious efforts to reduce waste, increase diversion, and accomplish a Zero Waste future.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In part based on the robust community process to date, including Council Members' feedback at the November 5, 2019 Work Session, staff reviewed four (4) proposals submitted in response to the RPF for CEQA Compliance. First Carbon Solutions, Inc. submitted the most responsive and comprehensive proposal. This CEQA compliance work is required prior to SW&RTS' final engineering design and the permitting for construction and solicitation of bids for its construction.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/20-11390-C%20-%20SWRTS%20CEQA%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level_3_-_General/20-11390-C%20-%20SWRTS%20CEQA%20FINAL.pdf)

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Continue reliance on the existing Transfer Station and the non-integrated recycling facilities, which are unable to support or expand the City's efforts to meet its Zero Waste Goals and are past their design and useful life. The existing facilities do not meet State or City safety and building codes. Given the age and structural conditions of the existing structures, reconstruction of these structures would be financially prohibitive.

CONTACT PERSON

Greg Apa, Solid Waste & Recycling Manager, Public Works – Zero Waste, 981-6359

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: FIRST CARBON SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE FOR THE SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING TRANSFER STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, July 24, 2018, City Council authorized retaining a third party consultant to conduct a Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station Feasibility Study with robust and extensive community and business members' input; and

WHEREAS, November 5, 2019 City Council Work Session, the Council reviewed the two preliminary concepts to provide feedback and direction on the replacement of the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station; and

WHEREAS, February 11, 2020, City Council authorized a Resolution to release a Request for Proposal for California Environmental Quality Act compliance for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station; and

WHEREAS, without the replacement of the existing facilities, the City cannot meet its Zero Waste or 2009 Climate Action Plan goals. These facilities are beyond their projected and useful life; making it challenging to comply with continuously evolving environmental requirements and safety regulations; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizing the City Manager to award a contract with First Carbon Solutions, Inc. for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station (SW&RTS) Replacement Project for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 for a contract term of November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

