

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** October 5, 2009

THROUGH: MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE ORDER WITH BIG BELLY SOLAR FOR PURCHASE OF 40 BIG BELLY SOLAR TRASH COMPACTORS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$146,550

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Big Belly Solar in an amount not to exceed \$146,550 for the purchase of 40 Big Belly Solar Trash Compactors; and
- (2) The proposed purchase order is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to the City Charter Section(C): Contracts for labor, materials, supplies or services available from only one vendor; and is requested to be exempted from the competitive selection process on the basis of P.M.C. 4.08.047 (B) Contracts, for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007/2008 the City of Pasadena participated in a pilot project that involved replacing several public trash bins with four Big Belly solar powered trash compactors. The compactors were placed at bus stop locations, and added to the City's existing waste collection program.

The compactor takes up as much space as an ordinary bin, but has a capacity five times greater than a normal trash bin. The compactor can compact up to 200 gallons of trash into one neat bag that weighs 40 to 60 pounds.

In 2008/2009 staff purchased six additional compactors to replace public trash bins in high-use areas. The compactors have been an effective tool for reducing litter in the high traffic/commercial areas of the City and well received by the public and local businesses. The existing and proposed compactor locations are shown in Attachment A.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

During the pilot project, the compactors were found to be safe, easy to use, pest resistant, highly functional, and to have reduced the number of collection trips from five times a week for regular trash bins to once per week for the compactors. The compactors are usually serviced by one municipal worker. Reduced collection trips resulted in lower expenditures for labor, fuel, vehicle maintenance, and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

This action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3), the General Rule states that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an affect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

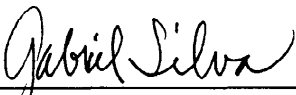
Based on the City's experience with the Big Belly Solar Compactor, the collection frequency will be reduced from five pickups per week to one pickup per week. The City will reduce expenses 80% due to improved efficiency, which will result in an annual program savings of approximately \$61,400 in reduced labor, maintenance and fuel costs. The savings are based on the cost of a Public Works Maintenance Worker I, and operation and maintenance cost of a utility truck. The return on investment for the purchase of the compactors is less than three years. Sufficient funds are available for this purchase in the Refuse Fund unappropriated balance. A journal voucher will be included on an October 26, 2009 agenda report, and at that time these funds will be appropriated to the Commercial Solid Waste Operations budget (account 8101-406-764130).

Respectfully submitted,




MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



Gabriel V. Silva, Management Analyst IV
Department of Public Works

Approved by:



Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works