



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 2, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works  
 Subject: Contract: 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 with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations of reusable materials at the City's Transfer Station for a three (3) year term commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, for a total amount not to exceed \$114,576.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract for the three year term is available in Zero Waste Fund 601, budget code 601-54-627-734-3023-000-472-612990-.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Urban Ore has partnered with the City of Berkeley for 20 years to salvage reusable materials from those materials that would have been permanently landfilled and promote the City of Berkeley's Zero Waste Goal. Urban Ore's current expenditure neutral contract expires June 30, 2020. The new contract will be an expenditure contract paying Urban Ore the equivalent cost of the landfill fee associated with the tonnage they keep out of the landfill. The new contract will allow the City to continue reduction of landfilling reusable materials, and support the City's Zero Waste Goal to reduce materials to be landfilled.

For the past 20 years, Urban Ore has salvaged approximately 800 tons annually of reusable materials from the City of Berkeley's Transfer Station tipping floor. Those items are resold at their retail store located at the intersection of Ashby Avenue and 7th Street in West Berkeley.

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 its own trained staff at the City's Transfer Station during tipping floor hours of operation, to salvage reusable household goods and building materials from discarded objects that would otherwise be transported to landfill. Urban Ore staff identify items of value from loads delivered to the Transfer Station by Zero Waste employees. In many cases, certain unsuitable discarded materials are salvaged, then rendered usable by staff intervention (such as removing embedded nails), which allows those materials to be placed for sale, and thus diverted from waste streams.

For the past decade, Urban Ore has been one of the local salvage operations able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the Transfer Station, while maintaining a local retail outlet for salvaged goods and materials. Their proven safety record, environmental commitment, and quality customer service have made them a vital zero waste partner.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Urban Ore mission statement, "our purpose is to end the age of waste by advocating and developing total recycling," proves a committed environmental vision with recycling as a key component to all aspects of their operation. Urban Ore has annually reclaimed approximately 800 tons from the tipping floor, which increases the City's diversion rate, and reducing 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 long-haul transportation and landfill use are also reduced.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Opting to discontinue this salvageable waste removal and 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.

### CONTACT PERSON

Greg Apa, Manager Zero Waste, Department of Public Works, [Phone Number]

Attachments:  
1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: URBAN ORE, INC. FOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS AT THE CITY OF  
BERKELEY TRANSFER STATION

WHEREAS, Urban Ore is a local salvage operation able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the Transfer Station, and 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 a vital zero waste partner; and

WHEREAS, funding for this contract for the three-year term is available in Zero Waste Division Fund, budget code 601-54-627-734-3023-000-472-612990-.

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 that the City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations at the City's Transfer Station for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, for an amount not to exceed \$114,576.

