



Office of the City Manager

October 17, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Initial Efforts for the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station
Feasibility Study

As Council is aware, the Public Works Department's Zero Waste division is looking to completely redesign our transfer station, the hub where the City sorts and transfers garbage, recyclables, compost and other materials. Over the next nine months, the Zero Waste Division will host a series of workshops, open houses and other events to get community input about how to develop the nearly eight-acre West Berkeley site.

These outreach efforts are all part of a feasibility study that will include the public, commissions, nonprofit partners and City staff. It will conclude with a work session presentation to Council in June 2019.

The extensive general and stakeholder input will be used to develop two or more options for the facility's redesign and redevelopment to comply with the requirements and process of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Building a new transfer station also holds a larger vision and opportunity for the City: reducing what's trucked to the landfill and recovering more of what can be re-used or recycled.

Background

Built in 1982 to handle 120 tons of waste per day, the Transfer Station now handles more than 420 tons per day. The City's needs have also evolved over the past four decades. City Council policies, staff programs and community members' actions have aggressively pursued the three primary principles to divert from landfills: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The site has expanded from its original 4.25 acres to 7.68 acres with the expansion of City-supported non-profits' collection of residential recyclables (Ecology Center, Inc.) and to sort and market residential and commercial recyclables (Community Conservation Centers, Inc.). This expansion on City property has occurred over the past several decades as needed and the existing facilities are in need of redesign to functionally support the City's zero waste goals.

The City Council on July 24, 2018, authorized the City Manager to award a contract to Zero Waste Collaborative, Inc., to conduct the feasibility study.

The Zero Waste Collaborative, Inc. consists of several very qualified firms including:

- JR Miller & Associates, Inc., which will be the Managing Partner. The firm has worked on 60 transfer stations and 27 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) designs and/or upgrades with four facilities as examples to meet Berkeley's need.
- Abbe & Associates, Inc., will coordinate the general public and all stakeholder input (public, agency & environmental groups) and has in-depth experience in the San Francisco area in zero waste goals.
- CSG Consultants, Inc., has 27 years' experience in long-term, high rate diversion planning; developing MRFs equipment and processing rates.
- Tanner Pacific, Inc., has 30 years' experience of construction management, cost estimation & buildability.

The goals of the study are to:

- 1) Solicit extensive general and stakeholder ideas for the redesign and redevelopment of the Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station; and
- 2) Use intensive community members' and stakeholders' input to develop two or more options for the facility's redesign to comply with the requirements and process of the California Environmental Quality act (CEQA).

Community Members and Stakeholders Involvement Schedule

September 27th: Zero Waste Collaborative, Inc., presented to the Interim Deputy City Manager, Planning, Finance and IT Department Directors and/or staff the goals and time line for the Study.

November 7th: Community member and stakeholder listening sessions to solicit input on their vision for the facility's development to meet zero waste goals. This meeting will be at the Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St. from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m..

January 8, 9 & 14, 2019: Presentation of the facility's development options based on the input from the listening sessions followed with extensive community members' and stakeholders' input on the facility's development option(s). Two separate sessions to be held in separate geographical City locations.

February 5, 2019: Presentation to community members and stakeholders on the results and/or facility's development options.

February 7, 2019: Presentation of community members and stakeholders input on the facility's development options to the Zero Waste Commission.

March 5, 2019: Presentation to community members and stakeholders on the facility's master plan options.

March 13 and 14, 2019: Presentation to community members and stakeholders on the potential environmental impact of the facility's development options.

April 5, 2019: Open House at Transfer Station and presentation to community members and stakeholders on conceptual plans for the facility's development options.

April 25 and 26, 2019: Scoping meetings (3) with community members and stakeholders on CEQA requirements for the facility's development options.

May 21, 2019: Presentation for finalized facility's development options and potential environmental impacts to the Zero Waste Commission.

June 18, 2019: Presentation and City Council work session on the community members' and stakeholders' input on the facility's development options.

Even with the significant community and stakeholder involvement, staff will work to ensure a timely and efficient CEQA process.

Current and Future Considerations

While residents, businesses and community members have successfully used City programs to slash the volume of materials landfilled by more than a third since the mid-1990s, the entire facility is handling 131,000 tons daily, which is the same annual incoming tonnage today that it received in 2011. Incoming materials consist of refuse (68,000 tons), construction and demolition (33,000 tons), and compostable organic materials (30,000 tons). At the adjacent material recovery facility that is also part of the study area, an additional 16,000 tons of mixed paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum and glass are recovered.

An integrated facility would enable more materials to be recovered from all incoming waste streams. Such a facility would also allow the City to better handle its refuse; fiber and container recyclables, and compostable materials for several more decades. Cost estimates and financing options will also be part of the study.

This study will be completed by the end of July 2019. The environmental review process (CEQA) will take another 2 to 3 years. Final engineering design and construction will follow that phase and will also require another 2-3 years. At that point, a visionary Material Resource Park will be ready to serve Berkeley's needs to meet its Zero Waste Goals for many years.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Interim Deputy City Manager
Phil Harrington, Public Works Director
Greg Apa, Zero Waste Division Manager, Public Works
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Manuel Hector, Zero Waste Operations Manager, Public Works
Heidi Obermeit, Recycling Program Manager, Public Works
Chrise de Tournay, Zero Waste Commission Chairperson