

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION 24-XXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
APPROVING THE CONTRACT WITH SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS FOR CEQA REVIEW
FOR ANNEXATION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE LANDFILL, ACCOMPANYING
PREPARATION OF REZONING AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS, APPLICATION FOR ALL
RELEVANT GRANTS TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL FACILITY FOR ADVANCED PROCESSING OF
BIOSOLIDS AND APPROVAL OF A REGIONAL FACILITY FOR ADVANCED PROCESSING OF
BIOSOLIDS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL
ACTIONS IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF**

WHEREAS, the City owns 133 acres of open land immediately to the south of the City Landfill along Highway 46 East. The City purchased the land, but has not yet annexed it into the City's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, to seek annexation the City Council must adopt a resolution of application which will first require compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);

WHEREAS, the proposed CEQA review would consider not only the resolution of application but also the application submittal to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a General Plan Amendment, Pre-Zoning, development of a plan for services, development of a written project description, stakeholder engagement, potential grant applications, potential approval of a Regional Facility for Advanced Processing of Biosolids, and additional administrative measures; and

WHEREAS, annexation of the land into the City's jurisdiction will allow the City to be the planning and building authority for future development of the land and act more responsively to expedite advancement and delivery of any future development or grant opportunities; and

WHEREAS, annexation of City-owned Landfill property will result in nearly \$10,000 annual savings through elimination of property tax payments to the County of San Luis Obispo; and

WHEREAS, if after CEQA review, community engagement and further review by the Council, the City pursues the potential development of a Regional Facility For Advanced Processing Of Biosolids will assist the City in achieving identified objectives in the City's Climate Action Plan (greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy production) and the City's Hazardous Mitigation Plan (reducing the risks of Human-Caused: Hazardous Materials, Wildfires, Drought, and Water Shortage); and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to complying with the various regulations established by Senate Bill 1383 (including elimination of organic waste streams going into the landfill and procurement of organic waste products such as renewable natural gas); and

WHEREAS, the City's wastewater treatment plant and those of neighboring jurisdictions produce thousands of tons of organic solid byproducts (i.e., biosolids) annually. These biosolids contain persistent pollutants such as polyfluorinated alkyl substances (i.e., PFAS or "forever chemicals") that must be mitigated to further protect the environment and minimize potential liabilities associated with pending changes to environmental regulations; and

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WHEREAS, the subject property offers a potential opportunity to address or solve many environmental concerns for both the residents of our community and partner jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City's Utilities Department proposes to conduct CEQA review with regard to the use of the subject property for installation of a facility that is capable of receiving a variety of organic waste streams, including biosolids, and converting it into renewable energy such as renewable natural gas and other valuable commodities. A description of the potential future project is included as Exhibit A. This renewable energy facility, a Regional Facility For Advanced Processing Of Biosolids, would provide many benefits, including sustainable soil restoration, fire mitigation, advanced groundwater management, renewable energy production, renewable fuel corridor expansion, regional SB 1383 compliance, destruction of persistent pollutants in biosolids, economic development, and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The City Manager and their designees are authorized to enter into an agreement with SWCA Environmental Consultants to prepare an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for annexation of City-owned property adjacent to the landfill, the application submittal to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a General Plan Amendment, Pre-Zoning, development of a plan for services, development of a written project description, development of a plan for services, stakeholder engagement, potential grant applications, potential approval of a Regional Facility for Advanced Processing of Biosolids, and additional administrative measures for an amount of up to \$60,912. The City Manager and their designees are further authorized to pursue accompanying preparation of rezoning and general plan amendments, application for all relevant grants to establish a regional facility for advanced processing of biosolids and approval of a regional facility for advanced processing of biosolids.

Section 3. The City finds this particular action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378. This item is intended to procure the environmental documents needed for complete CEQA review for Annexation of City-owned Property Adjacent to the Landfill, accompanying preparation of rezoning and general plan amendments, application for all relevant grants to establish a Regional Facility for Advanced Processing of Biosolids and potential approval of a Regional Facility for Advanced processing of Biosolids.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect on the date it is approved by the City Council.

APPROVED this 6th day of February 2024, by the following vote:

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AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

John R. Hamon, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Boyer, City Clerk

Exhibit A – SWCA Paso Robles Landfill Annexation Proposal 23-10-18