



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

Approved

Date

1-11-19

SUBJECT: Actions Related to Negotiations of Recycle Plus Residential Solid Waste Agreements

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Recommend staff continue negotiations with California Waste Solutions for 30 days

OR

- 2) Accept staff recommendation and:
 - a. Include in the RFP language that the labor peace and employee retention provisions of the City's Living Wage Policy will apply.
 - b. Include in RFP language that would add points based on whether proposals sustain or improve upon the current wages and benefits paid to the employee by the predecessor contractor. Points should be sufficient to support a level playing field for companies that pay living wage versus any "modified" living wage to their workers.
 - c. Release an info memo regarding final RFP details to Council in advance of the release of the RFP.

BACKGROUND

I appreciate the tremendous amount of work City Staff has done to bring this item forward today. I recognize and thank them for their work on such an important issue that effects so many San Jose families. Additionally, I thank each company that has served our city residents, including California Waste Solutions, GreenWaste, Green Team, and every company that provides waste services as a contractor or subcontractor who participated in this process.

There are many factors that should be considered when it comes to recycling in our City. Foremost is balancing quality service and an affordable price for rate payers. It is also important that we work with companies on our shared goal of improving our environment and our community.

We must also consider how the housing crisis in San Jose has begun to affect how we recycle. As rents rise, more families squeeze into smaller homes. In some case, our single family houses have become multifamily homes. This is especially true in District A and District C, and has had led to families struggling to contain their garbage without adding it to recycling as contamination.

If we go to an RFP and/or award this contract, we also must consider the hardworking men and women who put their health on the line to help our city reduce our landfill waste. And we should recognize companies that provide good, quality jobs here in San Jose.

If the city decides to do an RFP, it should encourage the creation of living wage jobs, not penalize companies that try to do the right thing.