

MESA COUNTY AGENDA ITEM SHEET

Hearing Date Requested: 3/26/2024
Submitter: JENNIFER.RICHARDSON
Presenter: Jennifer Richardson
Return originals to: Jennifer.Richardson
Number of originals to return to submitter: 0
Contract Due Date: 03/26/2024

To: Mesa County Board of Commissioners

Type of Item: Contract

Item Title/Recommended Board Action: Approve a Contract between Mesa County and Carollo Engineers, Inc for a Compost Facility Expansion and Rate Assessment for Mesa County Solid Waste Management, in the amount not to exceed \$139,185.00, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Justification or Background: Mesa County's Solid Waste & Sustainability Division (the Division) operates a Composting Facility (the Facility). The Facility composts approximately 60,000 cubic yards of yard waste, cull fruit, and manure brought from Mesa County residents and businesses each year. The Facility could compost other organic wastes, such as biosolids and food waste, but only with a substantial infrastructure investment. Currently, wastewater treatment plants throughout Mesa County dispose of over 12,000 tons of biosolids at the Mesa County Landfill every year, and according to a 2018 waste audit conducted at the Landfill, approximately 1/3 of the waste going to the Landfill is compostable food and yard waste. In 2022, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment developed a statewide Organics Management Plan, which identified food waste as the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions. Landfilling organic waste creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. However, composting organic waste produces carbon dioxide, a far less potent greenhouse gas. As a result of the 2022 Organics Management Plan, the state is assessing a landfill ban on yard waste, which could take effect in 2026.

The City of Grand Junction (the City), Colorado Mesa University, and School District 51 have expressed a desire to compost more yard waste and additional feedstocks, such as food waste and biosolids, at the Facility. In 2022 and 2023, the City piloted a food waste and biosolids composting program with the assistance of the Division and a 3rd party composter in Delta County. Additionally, last year, the City began a curbside yard waste collection program, which has had tremendous participation, such that the program will expand by 100% in 2024. The success of both these programs has demonstrated a commitment to developing the Facility to process more yard waste and other feedstocks.

As mentioned, further development of the Facility will require an investment in its infrastructure. To help inform the County's decision on whether or not to expand the compost facility, the Division would like to hire Carollo Engineering Inc. to provide a business-case evaluation of the existing composting program and expansion. To further solidify the City's commitment to composting biosolids and growing its yard waste collection program, the City has agreed to pay 50% of Carollo's assessment. The City contracted with Carollo for the Persigo WWTP Master Plan Development Project using a competitive bid, RFQ SOQ-4728-19-DH. The Division would like to piggyback off this original RFQ and partner with the City so that Carollo can assess the cost of composting biosolids, including the upfront infrastructure expenses, at the Mesa County Composting Facility; the fee schedule needed to ensure the composting

program is self-supporting; and alternatives for the City to compost its biosolids should Mesa County opt not to expand its compost operation.

Fiscal Impact: This item is budgeted in the following account code: 550.30206.62550
County: \$136,185 Federal: \$0 State: \$0 Other: \$0

Review:

Administration: Amy Russell

County Attorney: John Rhoads

Finance: Diane Dziewatkoski

Risk: Dayton Waddell
