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Milpitas City Council Invites Residents to Attend Jan. 12th Workshop to Learn About Options for New Solid Waste Disposal Contract, Provide Feedback to City Officials

Milpitas community's opinions and feedback are essential to city's ultimate success in selecting the best waste management providers to fit resident needs

Milpitas, California – Milpitas City Council will be holding its first in a series of community workshops to keep residents up to date and solicit feedback on its ongoing process to issue a new waste management contract for the City. The workshop will take place on January 12th starting at 7:00pm at Milpitas City Hall.

“The community’s opinions and feedback are essential to our ultimate success in selecting the best company to fit our community’s needs,” said Milpitas City Manager, Tom Williams. “As part of the review and selection process, the City will continue to reach out to community members on what is most important to them, helping to ensure strong public input into the process.”

Over the past year, the City has been engaged in selecting contractors to provide garbage collection and disposal services once the current contracts end in September 2017.

The January 12th meeting will include an update on the selection process, with a focus on the garbage disposal portion of the contract. Each company proposing to provide disposal services will present their experience, proposed approach and related environmental considerations. Disposal costs will not be discussed at the meeting. Companies that submitted garbage collection proposals, which are separate from the garbage disposal proposals, will be identified at the meeting but they will not make presentations or discuss the contents of their proposals until a subsequent workshop.

“Having a transparent and competitive selection process will help ensure the City finds and selects the best candidate to fulfill the needs of our citizens,” Williams said.

With the City’s current 30 year waste management contract with Republic Services expiring on September 5, 2017, City leadership felt it was necessary to open up the bidding process to evaluate

the different programs and levels of service provided by different companies and ensure that the City's provider is the best fit for the job.

To assist in the review and selection process, the City hired Hilton Farnkopf & Hobson (HF&H), a consulting firm that specializes in the areas of recycling and solid waste management services, in December 2014. HF&H used its expertise to ensure that the criteria laid out in the City's Request for Proposals (RFP) would elicit interest from top-tier candidates able to fulfill the City's needs. HF&H has reviewed the proposals and identified the top disposal and collection companies that fit the criteria laid out in the RFP.

"The City of Milpitas is always striving to find ways to better the services we offer to our residents," said Williams. "Our goal in this instance is to find a candidate that can maintain and improve upon our existing services and fulfill our essential recycling and waste management needs as efficiently as possible."

The City conducted initial outreach during a May 20, 2015 community meeting to get residents' feedback on current services and to determine which services they would like added. From that meeting, the City learned that the community was most interested in improvements in street sweeping services, reducing greenhouse gas emissions when transporting waste, increasing available recycling services, more flexible self-hauling of waste to landfills and better customer service.

"The City and HF&H took the feedback from this meeting into account and incorporated many of the community's suggestions into our RFP, review process and selection criteria to attract candidates that best align with our goals as a community," Williams said. "Everything we are doing throughout this process is with our residents' best interest at heart and we are confident that they will ultimately be happy with our choice."

The selection process is scheduled to take several months with a final decision estimated to be made in early summer 2016. The new contract would begin September 6, 2017 when Republic's current contract ends.

"While the next contracting period would not begin until 2017, we are beginning the process early to ensure ample time to receive input from our residents and allow for operational adjustments should a new service provider be selected," Williams said. "Regardless of who the City ultimately selects, we want to ensure residents that the level and quality of our services will remain unaltered. As always, our residents' approval and satisfaction remain our highest priority."