



AUSTIN RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Ken Snipes, Director
Austin Resource Recovery

DATE: June 21, 2021

SUBJECT: Response to Resolution 20200812-001 Budget Rider #15

This memorandum serves as a response to Resolution 20200812-001 - Budget Rider #15. Budget Rider 15 directed Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) and the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) to form a partnership in order to maximize the environmental benefits of ARR's operation of the Clean Creek Crew (CCC) and their litter abatement services and, to the extent possible, to integrate the CCC initiative into the Austin Conservation Corps. City Council directed this partnership to include:

- Environmental Training and Procedures: WPD will provide training to all ARR CCC staff members and supervisors to ensure CCC members are prepared to work in aquatic and riparian spaces as good environmental stewards.
- Litter Abatement Service Planning: ARR and WPD will work collaboratively on an ongoing basis to establish and maintain a work plan for CCC servicing that coordinates with other creek activities and needs, to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of City- and volunteer-provided services. In setting the work plan, WPD will hold the responsibility for determining which creeks and waterways need litter abatement.
- Information Sharing: ARR will provide routine reports to WPD on the CCC litter abatement services performed to inform WPD's water quality protection work. Within reason, WPD may ask for additional or different information in these reports as needs evolve. WPD and ARR also will collaborate to exchange best practices and lessons learned regarding litter abatement in and near creeks.
- Strategic Program Coordination: ARR and WPD will collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) on a cohesive creek litter abatement and cleanup strategy to ensure the CCC services complement the activities of the Workforce First program and of any other encampment cleanup or litter abatement programs active in or around creeks.

Regarding Environmental Training and Procedures

WPD staff will provide ARR staff training and Standard Operating Procedures, including in the following areas: Hidden and Unseen Hazards in Vegetation, Swift Water Weather Warning, Traffic Control, Spill Response, Job Safety Analysis (JSA), and Accessing Waterways.

Regarding Litter Abatement Service Planning

All communication regarding which creeks and waterways need litter abatement litter abatement will come from WPD and will be received by the program manager overseeing the CCC initiative. A JSA will be conducted daily based on work schedule and a JSA will be conducted for each site prior to the CCC arriving at said site.

Regarding Information Sharing

ARR will provide reports to WPD regarding litter abatement in or near creeks. The reports will include data regarding hazardous materials. If WPD needs specific data, the request will be sent to the program manager at ARR. Best practices will be shared by ARR and WPD.

Regarding Strategic Program Coordination

ARR and WPD will collaborate with the PARD on a cohesive creek litter abatement and cleanup strategy. In addition to collaborating regarding the Workforce First program and encampment clean ups, ARR and WPD will coordinate with PARD on bridge weight capacities and other points of entry on park land.

The Clean Community Fee can be used to fund Clean Creek Crew (CCC). Should the need arise with a long-term project, ARR will coordinate with Austin Civilian Conservation Corp (ACCC). ARR will also describe future job postings that encourage members of the ACCC to apply for positions while ensuring ARR continues to be a second-chance employer.

In addition to the coordination of the project and the development of the processes described above, ARR is in the interview process for the program manager to oversee the CCC and serve as the point of contact, and the six CCC team members. Once this position has been filled, staff can move towards achieving these deliverables.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Ken.Snipes@austintexas.gov.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Anne Morgan, Interim Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager
Jorge Morales, Watershed Department Director