BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number (20260325-1): FY27 & 28

Whereas, It is the Responsibility of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to review, evaluate and make recommendations to City Council, City Management and City Staff regarding policies concerning solid waste, recycling, organic and heavy brush collection pursuant to its Zero Waste Master Plan Goals; and

Whereas, Austin Resource Recovery is one of four Enterprise Departments within the City of Austin and is responsible for meeting its annual financial responsibilities through sound budgeting and efficient customer rate setting that provide Residents with a safe and cost effective collection and disposal service; and

Whereas, on November 5, 2025, the citizens of Austin unanimously voted against Proposition Q and its proposed Property Tax Rate increase; and

Whereas, the City of Austin and Austin Resource Recovery currently own hundreds of acres of non-performing Real Property assets in the Austin, Travis County, Texas area; and

Whereas, Austin Resource Recovery has established waste diversion and circular economy programs such as the Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance, MoveOutATX, Fix-it and Repair Clinics and Zero Waste Business Incentive and Rebate Programs; and

Whereas, Implementation and/or adherence to City policies must be reflected in the process of planning for future disposal and diversion challenges within the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas and supporting Austin Resource Recovery (ARR), who is responsible for implementing such Policies and Operations; and

Whereas, in 2000 the City of Austin adopted a comprehensive Master Plan for future garbage, recycling, organic and brush collection within the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas area; and

Whereas, The City of Austin has grown dramatically in population, development and competitiveness over the past five years and is in need of disposal options in the northern portion of Austin, Travis County, Texas; and

Whereas, the 2026-27 Austin Resource Recovery Budget recommendation is seeking to provide competitive compensation for support and collection staff and for the development of a much more efficient and cost effective North Austin Transfer and Hazardous Waste facility which will minimize employee attrition and provide much needed disposal, recycling and hazardous waste drop off options for north, northeast and west Austin residents seeking more comprehensive garbage, recycling, household hazardous waste and organic and brush disposal and collection options; and

Whereas, it is the goal of the Commission to more closely adhere to our Zero Waste Master Plan's diversion goals while acknowledging the future financial demands of unforeseen weather and environmental events facing ARR in meeting these evolving responsibilities beginning with the 2026-2027 Budget cycle; **Now Therefore,**

Be It Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and City Council to re-evaluate non-performing real property assets such as the FM 812 Landfill and to transform it to a revenue generating Construction and Demolition Sorting and Recycling facility similar to the neighboring adjacent property. A similar C&D Recycling and Diversion facility could possibly generate millions of dollars in annual ARR revenue and would meet the C&D processing needs of General Contractors who are required to follow the City of Austin's Construction and Demolition Ordinance.

Be It Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and City Council to support a 2026-27 Budget increase that will fund ARR's innovative programs, future infrastructure development, provide competitive employee compensation and add additional ARR FTE staffing to successfully implement these programs.

Be It Resolved That the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; Respectfully asks City Management and City Council to formally consider the financial implications of addressing the City of Austin's current and unforeseen events associated with the responsible implementation of daily waste, recycling, heavy brush and organic recycling collection by initiating adequate reserve funding for the support of these operations within Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Be It Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and the City Council of Austin, Texas, to proactively and aggressively identify and develop a North Austin Transfer Station to address the enormous growth occurring in this Austin, Travis County, Texas area. The development of a North Austin Transfer Station will provide a more cost-effective and efficient collection methodology for ARR which will lead to greater operational cost efficiencies and ratepayer savings.

Be it Further Resolved the Zero Waste Advisory Commission of the City of Austin; asks City Management and City Council to responsibly increase ARR's Reserve Fund Balance to meet at a minimum a three-month cost of operation reserve.

Resolution Date: **March 25, 2026**

Sponsor: **Gerry Acuna, Chair**
Co-Sponsor: **Ian Steyaert, Vice Chair**
Co-Sponsor: **Melissa Caudle, Commissioner**

Date of Approval: March 25, 2026

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 6-0 vote, Commissioner Drohan, Harris and Ishaq were absent.

Attest: Gustavo Valle