



**Department:** Utilities  
**Cost Center:** 6107  
**For Agenda of:** 4/2/2024  
**Placement:** Consent  
**Estimated Time:** N/A

**FROM:** Aaron Floyd, Utilities Director  
**Prepared By:** Chris Lehman, Deputy Director – Wastewater  
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**SUBJECT:** FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the Utilities Department to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Integrated Waste Management Authority Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$10,000;
2. If the grant is awarded, authorize the Utilities Director, or their designee, to execute necessary grant documents and direct the appropriation of monies to the accounts required to administer the grant.

### POLICY CONTEXT

The recommended actions are consistent with the City of San Luis Obispo's [Climate Action Plan](#), Pillar 5: Circular Economy, which includes a [Lead by Example](#) component identifying a zero-waste goal of ninety percent landfill diversion for all City operations, buildings, and facilities by 2030.

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) offers a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program to businesses, government agencies, nonprofit groups, and institutions located in San Luis Obispo County to promote, start, and/or expand waste reduction and landfill diversion efforts.

The IWMA's TAG Program is designed to empower local groups and/or change agents to develop community-based strategies for the prevention, separation, diversion, recycling, and composting of material. The IWMA typically seeks applicants who can act as a catalyst for reducing waste, promote zero waste strategies, demonstrate circular economy practices to eliminate waste, and maximize material resources.

**Application Process and Proposed Use of Grant Funds**

If approved by the City Council, staff will apply to the TAG Program. This is a competitive grant opportunity and applications include a written component (Attachment A) and a presentation to the IWMA Board of Directors for consideration at the May 8, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

In 2023, staff performed an audit of the trash, recycling, and organics containers located at indoor and rentable City facilities to identify areas that need new containers in compliance with Senate Bill 1383. During this audit, staff observed certain City facilities had broken containers, incorrectly labeled containers, or no containers at all for recycling.

Staff procured uniform two and three waste stream containers with available budgetary savings and installed them at prioritized City facilities not in compliance with SB1383, or that had an immediate need. This grant funding would be used to purchase containers for the remaining public-facing or high-use locations that do not yet have the needed containers. The in-kind contributions of staff time will be dedicated to facilitating the project, procuring and installing the containers, and reporting the success to the IWMA.

This grant would further the City’s efforts towards meeting the ambitious zero waste goal included in the adopted Climate Action Plan with the intent that by leading by example, the City will simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions and demonstrate replicable strategies to residents, businesses, and other organizations.

**Previous Council or Advisory Body Action**

On October 20, 2020, the City Council authorized staff to apply for a previous round of TAG Program funding. Grant funding renews every fiscal year, providing the opportunity for agencies to apply annually.

**Public Engagement**

Public comment can be provided to the City Council through written correspondence prior to the meeting and through public testimony at the meeting. An opportunity for public comment will also be available at the May 8, 2024, IWMA Board of Directors meeting when the City’s TAG funding request is under consideration.

**CONCURRENCE**

The City’s Finance Department concurs with the findings of this report. The Office of Sustainability and Natural Resources also concurs with staff’s recommendation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The recommended actions are not a “project” as defined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 because the action will not result in any physical change to the environment.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Budgeted: No  
 Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2023-24

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Total Budget Available</b>	<b>Current Funding Request</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>Annual Ongoing Cost</b>
General Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other: TAG Program Award	\$10,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action to authorize staff to pursue a grant funding opportunity with the IWMA for up to \$10,000 to fund solid waste and recycling infrastructural improvements to increase landfill diversion.

**ALTERNATIVES**

***Council could decide not to authorize the application to the IWMA TAG Program.*** Staff does not recommend this alternative; however, if Council chooses not to authorize staff to apply for this funding, staff will continue to seek other funding sources to assist with the implementation of the City’s Climate Action Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Technical Assistance Grant Program Application