



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 25, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Public Works
Subject: Contract No. 32100070 Amendment: Urban Ore, Inc. for Salvage Operations at the City of Berkeley Transfer Station

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to Contract No. 32100070 with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations of reusable materials at the City's Transfer Station increasing the not to exceed amount by \$75,272 for a new not to exceed amount of \$189,848 and extending the term through June 30, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract is available in Zero Waste Fund (601) in the FY 2024 budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

For the past 20 years, Urban Ore has salvaged more than 800 tons annually of reusable materials from the City of Berkeley's Transfer Station. Those items are resold at their retail store located at the intersection of Ashby Avenue and 7th Street in West Berkeley. This contract extension will allow the City to continue to reduce materials to be landfilled, supporting the City's Zero Waste Goal.

This is the first amendment to the existing contract, effective July 1, 2020 and approved by City Council through Resolution No. 69,434-N.S. The amendment will increase the not-to-exceed amount to cover regular operations and extend existing service levels until June 30, 2025.

The Urban Ore salvage program is a Strategic Plan Priority Project that advances our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

Since 2000, the Urban Ore Salvage and Recycling operation has stationed a box truck and its own trained staff at the City's Transfer Station during tipping floor hours of operation to salvage reusable household goods and building materials from discarded objects that would otherwise be transported to landfill. Urban Ore staff identify items of value from loads delivered to the Transfer Station by Zero Waste employees. In many cases, discarded materials are salvaged, then rendered usable by staff intervention (such as removing embedded nails), which allows those materials to be placed for sale, and thus diverted from waste streams.

For more than a decade, Urban Ore has been the only local salvage operation able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the Transfer Station, while maintaining a local retail outlet for salvaged goods and materials. Their proven safety record, environmental commitment, and quality customer service have made them an important zero waste partner.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The Urban Ore mission statement, "our purpose is to end the age of waste by advocating and developing total recycling," demonstrates a committed environmental vision with recycling as a key component to all aspects of their operation. Urban Ore has annually reclaimed more than 800 tons from the City tipping floor, which increases the City's diversion rate, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This salvage and reuse/recycling program supports increased diversion of materials from landfills, and helps move the City toward its Zero Waste Goal. In addition, the Transfer Station's operational expenses associated with long-haul transportation and landfill use are also reduced.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Opting to discontinue this salvageable waste removal and diversion program will increase City use of area landfills, increase greenhouse gas emissions from long-haul transportation of waste materials, and will negatively impact the Zero Waste Division budget.

CONTACT PERSON

Leticia Jauregui, Zero Waste Operations Manager, Public Works, (510) 981-6362
Keith Morin, Senior Management Analyst, Public Works, (510) 981-6354

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 3210070 AMENDMENT: URBAN ORE, INC. FOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS AT THE CITY OF BERKELEY TRANSFER STATION

WHEREAS, Urban Ore is the only local salvage operation able to provide a suitable diversion service on-site at the Transfer Station, which reduces landfill-bound waste by 800 tons each year by returning useable materials to the community; and

WHEREAS, this salvage and reuse/recycling program helps move the City toward its zero waste goals, while reducing the Transfer Station's operational expenses associated with increased landfill use, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by long-haul trucks; and

WHEREAS, Urban Ore's proven safety record, environmental commitment, and quality customer service have made them an important zero waste partner; and

WHEREAS, this is the first amendment to the existing contract, number 3210070, effective July 1, 2020 and adopted by council with Resolution 69,434--N.S. and needed to increase the not to exceed amount to cover regular operations and extend existing service levels until June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, funding for this contract amendment and term extension is available in Zero Waste Division in Fund 601 in FY 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Ore salvage program is a Strategic Plan Priority Project that advances our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, opting to discontinue this salvageable waste removal and diversion program will increase City use of area landfills, and negatively impact the Zero Waste Division budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Urban Ore, Inc. for salvage operations at the City's Transfer Station increasing the contract amount by \$75,272 for a new not to exceed amount of \$189,848, and extending the contract term by 2 years through June 30, 2025. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

