

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Malcolm Matthews, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Christopher J. Brady; Finance; Management and Budget; Legal; File

SUBJECT: Ordinance Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Alamo Area Council of Governments for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program and the Acceptance of the Grant if Awarded

DATE: January 29, 2004

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the submission of an application to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program for \$24,000.00 to fund a waste reduction and recycling program at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. The ordinance authorizes acceptance of the grant if it is awarded.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The San Antonio Botanical Garden is a Parks and Recreation Department facility located at 555 Funston in City Council District 9. This ordinance will authorize the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$24,000.00 to the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. If approved, the grant funds will be utilized to purchase a brush chipper to implement a waste reduction and recycling program.

Growth of the plants in the 33-acre San Antonio Botanical Garden requires continual trimming and maintenance throughout the year. The current system of waste disposal of the trimmings is not economically or environmentally efficient. The Garden pays a fee to haul brush, which it then must buy back in the form of mulch. Also, due to budget restrictions, the Garden cannot afford to remove brush as frequently as needed, so much of the waste is discarded in a dumpster and is disposed of in landfills.

If approved, the grant will allow the purchase of a brush chipper for the San Antonio Botanical Garden, which will help the Garden provide for recovery of material resources by emphasizing reuse, reduction and recycling. It is anticipated that the Garden will:

- Recycle approximately 300 cubic yards of the Garden's brush per year
- Eliminate need for brush to be discarded in area landfills
- Provide the Garden with approximately 30,000 pounds of mulch per year
- Reduce expenditures for brush removal and purchase of mulch
- Save water by securing an abundant supply of cost-free mulch

In addition, the Garden will increase citizen participation in recycling and reuse of residential waste through:

- An expanded public education program concerning garden recycling through signage
- A Community Collection Event, a Christmas Tree Recycling Program, with the surrounding community which will result in landfill waste reduction

The Garden will serve as a public example of the benefits of recycling for residents, businesses, developers and other governmental entities.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance follows City policy in utilizing State and Federal or private grant funds to provide recreational support services for our community and to supplement City resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$24,00.00 grant will be utilized to purchase one industrial brush chipper. Total reduced costs for the General Fund will be approximately \$3,700.00 per year. Current brush disposal collection costs of \$2,700.00 per year and mulch purchase costs of \$1,000.00 per year will be reduced by 100% after the program is implemented. Staff time to operate the chipper program will be absorbed within the current Botanical Garden program budget.

COORDINATION

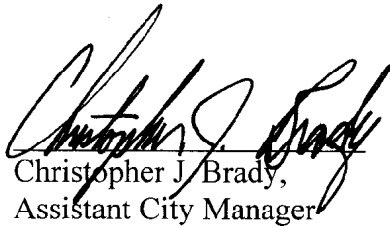
The San Antonio Botanical Society has assisted with the grant application.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

A Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.

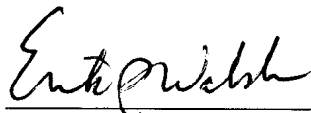


Malcolm Matthews,
Director of Parks and Recreation



Christopher J. Brady,
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

Attachment I

Botanical Garden Waste Reduction Grant Project
Fund 26-_____

INDEX #.		Current Budget	Additions/ Reductions	Revised Budget
	<u>REVENUES</u>			
_____	ACCOG/TCEQ Grant	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>
	Total	\$0	\$24,000	\$24,000
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
_____	Brush Chipper Equipment	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>
	Total	\$0	\$24,000	\$24,000

Activity 26-11-03