

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Daniel V. Cárdenas, Director of Environmental Services

**SUBJECT:** AACOG FY 2006 Regional Solid Waste Grants

**DATE:** February 9, 2006

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or her designee to submit various grant applications for approximately \$300,000 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) for FY 2006. These grants are the Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grants for FY 2006 and support environmental programming efforts related to recycling, solid waste stream reduction, and municipal enforcement of anti-dumping laws. If the grants are awarded, this ordinance further authorizes the execution of grant contracts between the City and AACOG as well as acceptance of all subsequent funding that may become available and may be received from the grant applications.

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since 1996, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has provided statewide grants to area Councils of Governments for distribution to municipal and local agencies. These funds are generated by local fees imposed by the State on volumes of disposed municipal solid waste. This expense is reflected in private and public fees charged by area landfills for municipal solid waste disposal services.

Cities, Counties, and Independent School Districts in the region compete for these funds each grant cycle. The Environmental Services Department has been awarded the majority of these grants, although the Code Compliance, Public Works, Health, Parks and Recreation Departments and the City Clerk's Office have also received funding for projects.

This Ordinance will authorize staff to submit applications, execute grant contracts between the City and AACOG, and accept any awards as may become available from the FY 2006 Regional Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant program, totaling approximately \$300,000.00. AACOG acts as the state's conduit and administrator in this respect. Grant funds may be used to enhance environmental programs that promote recycling, deter illegal dumping, or support other waste diversion initiatives. Funds may be used for equipment, site improvements, educational programs and supplies, and environmental enforcement programs.

If additional funds become available from the TCEQ, this proposed Ordinance authorizes the submission of additional applications for FY 2006 projects. Applications for the following projects will be submitted:

***Recycling and Green Waste Education Project*** – Funds will be used to promote the City's recycling programs, including curbside collection and yard waste recycling. Residents will be targeted in a variety of ways such as: bilingual media, community informational fairs and enhanced recycling outreach.

***Citizen's Glass Recycling Collection Station*** – Previous grant funds provided for a glass pulverizer, equipment, and storage containers for citizens to deposit their recyclable glass. This application will provide for additional equipment which will allow COSA to include larger sized materials and pursue recycling opportunities with other entities such as SAWS and CPS Energy.

***COSA Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Recycling Education Outreach*** – Requested funding will provide for two (2) cargo vans and related educational materials to promote the City's HHW facility and recycling programs. The vans will be distinctively designed to display messages that call attention to the City's programs. Education materials on proper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste and deterrence of illegal dumping will also be distributed. Vehicles will be used to deliver recycling bins and educational materials to residents.

***Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center Enhancements*** - Funding will be used to purchase explosion-proof storage lockers. These lockers are used to temporarily store toxic and hazardous wastes prior to disposal. This application will also include improvements to the site foundation to facilitate placement of the storage lockers, improve the driving surface for vehicular traffic and reduce the potential for site contamination.

***Bitters Brush Recycling Center Enhancements*** – Funds will be used to acquire a modular building to be used at the site as a customer convenience center. This facility will provide restroom and meeting room areas for the public as well as staff.

***Skid Steer Loader for HHW and Brush Center*** – Funding will be used to acquire a Skid Steer Loader and various attachments, including a bucket, pallet forks, wood chipper, and broom. This equipment will be used at the HHW facility to move palletized materials and sweep the site clean. It will also be used at the Brush Center to load vehicles with mulch.

***Modular Building for HHW*** – Funding for this grant application will be used to acquire a small modular building for the HHW facility. This building will be used as a decontamination facility, storage for Personal Protective Equipment, and as a training center.

***Investigation of illegal dumping*** – Funds will be used to hire an additional full-time code abatement officer for the Code Compliance Department, to include benefits, required supplies, personal gear and equipment, as well as training and maintenance of equipment. The abatement officer and related equipment will be used solely for the purpose of investigating illegal dumping activity and pursuing criminal prosecution.

## **POLICY ANALYSIS**

Approval of this Ordinance will be a continuation of City Council policy to protect environmental resources and to seek grant funding for environmental initiatives. All grant-financed activities are intended to carry out requirements of the Texas Solid Waste Disposal Act.


## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Improvements resulting from the acceptance of any grants awarded will be funded directly by the grant. Future City Council approval may be required for specific equipment purchases. Ancillary costs, such as fuel and labor shall be funded by the Environmental Services Fund.

Regarding the additional Code Abatement Officer position, should grant funds not continue in the future, the position would need to be re-examined with options to eliminate or support with other funds.

## **COORDINATION**

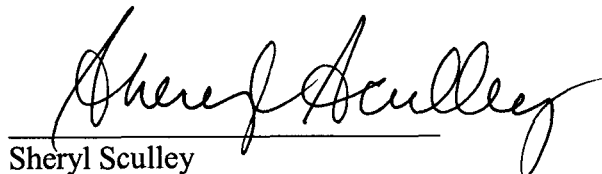
This request for Ordinance has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the Office of Management and Budget and the Code Compliance Department.



Daniel V. Cárdenas, Director  
Environmental Services Department



Frances A. Gonzalez  
Assistant City Manager



Sheryl Sculley  
City Manager