



City of Rialto

Legislation Text

File #: UC-19-637, **Version:** 1

For Utilities Commission Meeting [June 18, 2019]

TO: Honorable Utilities Commission Members

APPROVAL: Thomas J. Crowley, P.E., Utilities Manager

FROM: Amy Crow, Administrative Analyst

Request the Utilities Commission to Recommend the Cancellation of the Bethany Presbyterian Church Garden Agreement, and Reallocation of the remaining funds from the Community Garden Capital Project to support a Free Dump Day Program for Rialto Residents.

(ACTION)

BACKGROUND:

The City of Rialto currently operates two (2) City Community Gardens. The first located at 539 N. Acacia Avenue behind Grace Lutheran Church on the church property. This existing garden is on approximately two (2) acres and has 87 plots for planting. Existing plots are comprised of both raised beds and ground level plots. Each plot is set up with its own water spigot. In addition, the garden has an orchard, shade area and tool shed. This community garden has been growing since 1998 and has reached its build-out capacity.

The second garden is located on the north side of Bud Bender Park on Lilac Avenue. The Bud Bender Park garden was constructed during the park rehabilitation project and it includes 16 raised beds for planting. Bud Bender Park garden is currently 50% full.

As the current Community Gardens were nearing their build-out capacity a few years ago, staff began pursuing other possible locations for additional Community Gardens as well as ways to maximize the use of the existing available space.

On May 13, 2014, City Council awarded a Professional Services Agreement to Architerra Design Group (ADG) of Rancho Cucamonga for design of the Community Garden project. The Public Works Department worked with an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of one representative each from the Recreation/Parks Commission, the Beautification Commission, and the Utility Commission to review the recommended site locations for the new Community Gardens, as well as to review and give input on the design plans for the garden locations.

On December 9, 2014, the City Council approved the priority list and recommended the top three (3) sites for design as Community Gardens. Design plans for the top three garden sites were completed by ADG and reviewed by the Ad Hoc committee.

On January 27, 2015, the City Council approved the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to proceed with the Community Garden Lease Agreement with Bethany Presbyterian Church located at

1773 N. Riverside Avenue.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

During the Economic Development Committee Meeting in December of 2018, while requesting the authorization to release bids for construction the Bethany Presbyterian Church garden, the committee directed staff to provide alternative options for use of the AB939 funds. Staff presented the following list of potential projects to consider.

Under the Integrated Waste Management Act, the AB 939 funding provides a source of revenues for a wide range of activities, programs and projects such as, but not limited to the following list:

- ✓ Community Clean-Up Day Events (Shred Fest, Electronic Waste, Tire Recycling)
- ✓ Community Gardens
- ✓ Compost bins and workshops
- ✓ Beverage Bucks Program, Beverage Container Recycling
- ✓ Reusable shopping bags
- ✓ Community Outreach Events (Garden Open House, Pollution Prevention Fair, other City events)
- ✓ ReCollect Reminder App
- ✓ Administration and reporting (Grants - Applications & Annual Reports, CalRecycle Annual Reporting)
- ✓ Illegal Dumping Costs (Potential New Program)
- ✓ Quarterly Free Dumping (Potential New Program)
- ✓ Recycling Programs (Potential New Program - Commercial Organics Outreach)

Subsequently, the EDC members did not approve the release of bids for the Bethany Presbyterian Church garden, but charged staff to further develop a free dump day program for City residents and present the program for Council consideration. Staff coordinated with Burrtec in developing the free dump day program which will be held in conjunction with the current Community Clean-Up day activities. It is our hope that this new program will lessen the frequency of Illegal Dumping throughout the City.

Free Dump Day Activities will be conducted quarterly (four times per year) during January, April, July and October from 8 am to 2 pm. The Free Dump Day activities will take place at the following locations:

Rialto City Hall
150 S Palm Ave
Rialto, CA 92376

- Electronic Waste Collection
- Document Shredding
- Special Collections
- Salvation Army Donation Drop-off
- Trash and Green Waste Collection

Household Hazardous Waste

246 S. Willow Ave
Rialto, CA 92376

- Residential Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Public Works Office

335 W. Rialto Ave
Rialto, CA 92376

- Used Tire Drop-off

New to the program is the trash and green waste collection. Due to the increased need for additional space requirements, City and Burrtec staff modified the current Community Clean-up Day activity layout to allow for ample space for all collection activities as well as insure the best possible traffic flow. Staffing will be increased to manage set-up, check-in and traffic control and break-down. The proposed staging area layout is included as **Attachment 1**. In planning for the increased activities members of the development group chose to combine the Free Dump Day with the current Community Clean-Up Day activities in order to insure adequate staff coverage for all collection areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

This action is not a “Project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Pursuant to section 15378(a), a project means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. According to section 15378 (b), a project does not include: (5) Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

Approval of this action complies with the City of Rialto General Plan Goal and Policies:

Goal 2-34: Achieve waste recycling levels that meet or exceed State mandates. Achieve maximum waste recycling in all sectors of the community: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and construction.

Policy 2-34.1: Develop programs that promote reuse and recycling throughout the community.

Policy 2-34.2: Utilize source reduction, recycling, and other appropriate measures to reduce the amount of solid waste generated in Rialto that is disposed of in landfills.

Goal 3-10: Minimize the volume of solid waste that enters local and regional landfills.

Policy 3-10.1: Encourage additional recycling in all sectors of the community.

Policy 3-10.4: Continue to educate the community regarding the benefits of solid waste diversion and recycling, and maintain programs that make it easy for all residents and businesses to work toward City waste reduction objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating Budget Impact

The expected annual cost for the Free Dump Day portion of the Community Clean-Up Day activities four times per year would be \$40,000 for staff overtime and \$80,000 for Burrtec costs totaling \$120,000 per year. Budget for the proposed Free Dump Day Program has been included in the 2019/2020 budget in the Waste & Environmental Fund. Burrtec's Cost break-down is included as Attachment 2.

Capital Improvement Budget Impact

Funds of \$1,340,980 were budgeted for the development of a third community garden. A total of \$121,857 were expended for the planning and design of the project, thus leaving remaining funds of \$1,219,123. These funds will be released back into fund balance as the project budget will no longer be carried forward for the construction of the project.

Licensing

The proposed action will not require the payment of a business license tax.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the Utilities Commission to Recommend the Cancellation of the Bethany Presbyterian Church Garden Agreement, and Reallocation of the remaining funds from the Community Garden Capital Project to support a Free Dump Day Program for Rialto Residents.