



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Patti McLauchlin, City Manager
Todd Stoughton, Asst. City Manager

FROM: John Paul Castro, Utilities Director

DATE: March 23, 2022

SUBJECT: Approving a Task Order from Black & Veatch Engineering for the Feasibility of a Waste to Energy Facility

Action Statement:

This is a request to approve a task order from Black & Veatch Engineering to evaluate the feasibility of constructing a waste to energy facility in the lower keys in the amount of \$80,478.00 pursuant to general engineering contract resolution 20-142.

Background:

The City of Key West currently produces nearly 50,000 tons of solid waste, recycling and yard waste. That waste is hauled at minimum 150 miles on to the mainland to either a recycling, yard waste, or waste to energy facility. The cost of hauling the city's waste is more than \$4 million a year has a considerable carbon footprint.

Purpose and Justification:

Over the past 2 decades waste to energy technology and construction has become cost and energy efficient. The environmental impacts have decreased dramatically and the resiliency of creating additional power sources have become more desirable.

Due to economies of scale a waste to energy facility would be more cost efficient if all stakeholders in the area created a joint facility to divert waste. In this task order the consultant will assess the waste streams of the city and the county as well as the other incorporated cities in the keys.

Federal and state partners including the Navy will be partners in the discussion for waste stream impacts, land use, permitting, and environmental impacts of such a facility or possible multiple facilities.

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

MEMORANDUM

In an effort to look at future programs to reuse waste streams in the lower keys for resiliency and lessen the impacts of hauling costs, carbon footprint, and traffic congestion to the residents of the Lower Keys and Key West, city staff believes the responsible first step is a feasibility assessment.

Black and Veatch has a general engineering contract with the city, approved by resolution 20-142. The labor mix and rates have been determined to be reasonable and fair.

This initiative meets Key West Forward priority 4; environmental protection, section 6 Waste to Energy. The study was introduced and approved through the strategic planning development process.

Financial Impact:

Funds for this initiative were not included in the FY2022 Solid Waste budget. Staff requests a budget transfer in the amount of \$80,478 from Solid Waste Reserve account 403-3401-534-9900 into Solid Waste/General Admin/Professional Services account 403-3401-534-3100.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving the task order from Black and Veatch Engineering for a waste to energy feasibility study.