



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Patti McLauchlin, Interim City Manager

**Cc:** Todd Stoughton, Interim Assistant City Manger

**FROM:** John Paul Castro, Utilities Director

**DATE:** July 1, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Approving Task Order 3-21 SWR from Jacob's Engineering for a Compost Pilot Program

**Action Statement:**

Staff is requesting approval of task order 3-21 SWR from Jacob's Engineering for the permitting and implementation of a compost pilot program at the WWTP in the amount of \$99,711.00

**Background:**

In 2019 staff reached out to Jacob's Engineering to inquire about alternative methods to use or dispose of solids from wastewater treatment that is currently landfilled nearly 200 miles away. The most intriguing option was the use of dewatered solids mixed with yard waste to create a useful compost material.

Staff and Jacob's visited a similar environmentally sensitive area that was currently using the process in Anchorage Alaska. The process of creating the compost is simple, uses 2 different waste streams, and becomes a valuable commodity.

A technical memorandum was written by Jacob's that analyzed the City's dewatered solids, yard waste, and processing costs. At approximately \$6 million dollars the project has an estimated 7-year payback period.

**Justification:**

Due to the nature of the project, a pilot program is recommended. The pilot would allow city and OMI staff to learn the compost process, create the final product, test the final product, and conduct public outreach for the project.

Jacob's will design the program with OMI and city staff. FDEP approval for the program will be requested. The small-scale compost facility will be built and set up to mimic the full-size operation. The cost of the pilot facility will be covered by OMI as the scope is within their maintenance agreement and only requires small parts.

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

Jacob's Engineering will monitor and manage the processing of the compost. The final product will be sampled and tested to determine if the compost meets FDEP standards.

This process will allow the city to create a real product that can be used for public outreach. Staff will need to use the final report to understand market demands of the product for final use. The intent is to use the data for public meetings to gather input before committing to a full-scale project.

**Financial Impact:**

Project number SE35042103 in account Sewer/Treatment Plant Operations/CIP 401-3504-535-6500 has a budget of \$300,000.00 in FY21 for this project.

**Options:**

1. The commission can approve the task order for the pilot project which will help staff learn the compost process and analyze the final product for eventual public use.
2. The commission could not approve the task order for the pilot and direct staff to move forward with the compost project in full.
3. The commission could not approve the task order and forego the project altogether.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends option 1, to approve task order 3-21 SWR from Jacobs Engineering for the compost pilot program in an amount not to exceed \$99,711.00