

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

Date: February 14, 2023
To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Carl Young, County Administrator
Re: EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant
Attachments: Project Budget

Summary: This is a request to authorize the application for the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (“EPA”) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories. The approximate budget is \$1,078,034 and would expand Waste Transfer Services in Gardner and La Veta as well as examine the current waste management ecosystem in Huerfano County and propose efficiencies. No match is required or being proposed. County Staff have been working with the Southern Colorado Economic Development District to complete and submit the application.

Requested Motion/Action:

Motion to authorize the application for the EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories in the approximate amount of \$1,078,034.

Grant Program: This is a federal grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The program has the following goals:

- Fund a range of projects that will help local governments and communities advance from “where they are” to significantly transform their post-consumer materials management infrastructure.
- Fund projects that will result in a significant decrease in the generation of MSW and/or an increase in the diversion of MSW from landfills and incineration.
- Fund innovative solutions and programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, mechanical recycling, anaerobic digestion, and composting.

This program aims to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to disadvantaged communities.

Our Project: For this grant our project is to expand its current waste collection and management infrastructure by: (1) creating community convenience sites in Gardner and La Veta; and (2) creating a waste diversion project with a focus on architectural salvage. The community convenience sites will allow the County to better serve outlying communities and expand recycling services. The County further proposes to optimize and improve its capacity for waste management by conducting a Waste Management Study that will: (1) examine the County’s current waste management ecosystem and propose immediate and long term actionable steps to optimize the existing system; (2) explore the feasibility of new recycling programs such as anaerobic digestion for organic waste, tire recycling, or glass recycling; (3) provide the data required for EPA Reporting.

Alignment with County Objectives:

This project aligns with County goals around infrastructure improvement and community health.

Financial Considerations:

We are requesting \$1,078,033.95 from EPA. No match is required or proposed, however this is a reimbursement grant and the County will have to make expenditures and then be reimbursed.

Signature of the Chair

Approved

Denied