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DATE: June 3, 2024

TO: Wade Bryson, Chair  
Public Works and Facilities Committee

THROUGH: Denise Koch, Director Engineering and Public Works

FROM: Dianna Robinson, Environmental Project Specialist

SUBJECT: Preferred Method to Answer Compost Procurement Question

### **Congressionally Directed Spending for the Municipal Composting Facility**

In early 2023, the CBJ was notified that it was awarded its requested \$2.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) through Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office for the design and construction of a municipal composting facility. Engineering & Public Works (EPW) staff began working with the EPA to acquire the funding in March of 2023.

Unlike traditional federal grants, funds from CDS awards have to go through an evaluation process before funds can be dispersed to the recipient. As part of EPA's evaluation of the awarded funding, a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review had to be conducted. This process, including a public comment period, finished in February of 2024 when EPA issued a final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Staff were then able to finish the evaluation process and officially request the funds at the end of April 2024. We expect to be issued the funds sometime this summer and begin the design phase shortly after. The typical project period (once funds are dispersed) per EPA is 24-36 months.

The funding will be used for the following:

- Facility design and site planning
- Site preparation, including the running and installation of utilities to the site, earth moving, and drainage construction
- Construction of a concrete pad for composting activities
- Construction of a perimeter fence for wildlife and site control

The \$2.5 million will not pay for the construction of any buildings. EPW staff are actively seeking funding to construct the remainder of the facility, which will include covered bays for compost windrows and covered structures for storage and material mixing.

### **Next Steps:**

A decision will now need to be made about the operation of the future compost facility. It has always been the intent of CBJ to have an outside operator manage the site; however, there are two ways this can be decided, through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, or through a competitive leasing process.

### **Requested Action:**

Should the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) be asked to provide a recommendation based on this information first, or should it be considered directly by PWFC at a future meeting?

*Attachment: Compost Facility Procurement Question*