



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

Prepared By: Public Works Department

Approved By: Gabe Engeland

Subject: First Amendment to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program Agreement (FY2025/26)

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Business Communities
- ☐ Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- ☒ Environmental Sustainability
- ☐ Housing
- ☒ General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Agreement for Countywide Household Hazardous (HHW) Waste Collection Program and Countywide AB 939 Implementation Fee with the County of Santa Clara on behalf of the City

FISCAL IMPACT

The amount of \$127,410 for funding augmentation of the HHW Program is included as an expense in the proposed FY 2025/26 Solid Waste Budget, in which there are sufficient funds. (Amount shown here is calculated based on anticipated resident participation from Los Altos; actual funding augmentation for FY 2025/26 will be based on actual resident participation.)

- Breakdown of funds to be used for funding augmentation for the HHW Program per the Agreement:
 - \$127,410 Solid Waste Fund
- Amount already included in approved budget: N

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Approval of the First Amendment to the Agreement for Countywide HHW Collection Program is exempt from environmental review under the Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15273(a) of the CEQA Guidelines because CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Annually since FY 2015

BACKGROUND

On May 14, 2024, the City Council approved a three-year agreement for the City's participation with Santa Clara County for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program management. This agreement expires on June 30, 2027. The City has participated in the program since 2000. The Countywide HHW Collection program enables residents to conveniently dispose of small quantities of hazardous waste at any of the collection facilities in the County. Hazardous waste is not allowed to be placed in household garbage containers. Household waste includes, but is not limited to, cleaning products, mercury thermostats, pesticides, flammable liquids, corrosives, solvents, car batteries, used motor oil, antifreeze, paint, fluorescent lights, and electronic waste.

AB 939 mandates and provides authority for agencies to collect funds for the planning and implementation of integrated waste management programs, which include programs for the diversion of waste from landfills. The HHW is a minor but important part of the diversion of waste from landfills. It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in sanitary landfills. This program provides residents with a safe method to dispose of items that require special handling.

The agreements with the County for HHW Program and AB 939 implementation provide for the collection of fees on waste disposed of or treated at County landfills. The agreement provides for the City to receive \$4.10 per ton of landfilled waste that the City uses to partially fund integrated waste management programs. A fee of \$2.60 per ton is collected for County-wide HHW programs. The HHW Program agreement defines the County, for the specific services it provides to municipalities, as the program manager.

The County's HHW Program held a temporary hazardous waste disposal event in Los Altos on April 12, 2025.

ANALYSIS

While the City and County entered into a three-year agreement to provide HHW collection services, the agreement must be amended annually with a new operating schedule and a new augmentation amount for service levels above what is funded through AB 939 Implementation Fees. The City is required under the agreement to pay the difference between the estimated cost to provide service to an average of 4% of the City's residents annually at hazardous waste disposal sites under the program less the amount generated within the City in AB 939 fees. The AB 939 fees will continue to support a four percent level of participation by Los Altos residents in the County HHW Program.

DISCUSSION

Funding augmentation for the HHW Program for FY 2025/26 is needed in the amount of \$127,410 based on anticipated participation from City residents. It is important to note when reviewing the attached amendment that the County uses the term "FY2026" to describe the fiscal year from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution

2. First Amendment to the Agreement for Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (FY2025/26)
3. Executed Agreement for Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (FY2025-27)
4. Executed Agreement for Countywide AB939 Implementation Fee (FY2025/27)