

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROBERT PERRAULT, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM ECO ROTARY TO BE EXEMPT FROM CERTAIN SOLID WASTE CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

BACKGROUND

Eco Rotary has written a letter to the City of Grover Beach requesting the organization be exempt (waived) from certain charges associated with recycling food waste at public events. *(Please see Attachment 1.)* The charges are related to the costs associated with the handling of food waste by South County Sanitary Service. The City Council is requested to consider the request and, if granted, authorize the City Manager to send a letter to South County Sanitary Service, Inc, authorizing the requested exemption.


DISCUSSION

The Rotary Club of the Five Cities-Eco ("Club") is a local Rotary Club that performs regular beautification projects and provides ecology-minded cleanup services for local community events. As a part of their ecology-minded program, they attempt to recycle as much of the refuse generated from these community activities as possible, which includes recycling of food waste. In the letter, the Club is requesting an exemption from charges incurred in the disposal of food waste by South County Sanitary Service. This same request has been forwarded to the Cities of Pismo Beach and Arroyo Grande. The City Council of Arroyo Grande recently approved the request for the exemption.

The current policy of South County Sanitary Service is to provide non-profit events with two sets of event boxes free of charge for waste disposal. A 50 percent discount is provided on all additional services, excluding costs associated with the recycling of food waste.

For each event they serve, the Club requests delivery of six to ten 96-gallon waste wheelers for food waste. This is in addition to whatever the event requests for garbage and recycling. The green waste disposal site, Engel and Gray in Santa Maria, allows occasional small quantities of food waste to be mixed with the green waste loads. At the community events, Club members will sift through waste containers and ensure that materials are properly recycled and separate the food waste into separate containers for later recycling with the green waste. This effort leads to the recycling of additional materials and keeps more of the food waste out of the landfill. South County Sanitary Service charges \$80.00 to deliver, empty, take away, and clean the waste wheelers for food waste. The Club has requested this charge be waived (exempted) by

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING



ROBERT PERRAULT
CITY MANAGER

Please Review for the Possibility of a Potential Conflict of Interest:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Identified by Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peterson | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bright | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicolls |

South County Sanitary Service with the direction from the City in order to support the Club's efforts to reduce refuse by recycling food waste.

South County Sanitary Service has indicated that exempting the charge simply requires direction from the City Council that could come in the form of a letter. Costs would be incorporated into the expenses for the next base rate analysis and would ultimately be paid by the ratepayers. The costs are considered to be minor. At present, the only event serviced by Eco Rotary in Grover Beach is the Stone Soup Music Festival. It is possible that the costs could grow, if the number of community events were to increase. According to the South County Sanitary Service General Manager, if limited to the recycling of food waste, it would likely have no appreciable impact.

Staff would suggest that in granting the exemption, the City Council request that South County Sanitary Service provide an accounting regarding the events assisted in this manner and the total costs incurred. Should the cost increase to an unacceptable level, the City could revoke its approval.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. The Council could authorize the City Manager to send a letter to South County Sanitary Service exempting Eco Rotary from incurring costs associated with the recycling of food waste;
2. The Council could decide not to grant the exemption at this time; or
3. The Council could provide staff with additional direction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to send a letter to South County Sanitary Service, Inc., exempting Eco Rotary from charges associated with the recycling of food waste at community events.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City resulting from the granting of this exemption. It is possible that the costs of the services would be distributed to ratepayers, but it is unlikely that there will be an impact on rates due to the amount of these costs.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Attachment

1. Letter from Ms. Anita Shower, Secretary, Rotary Club of the Five Cities-Eco



Rotary Club of the Five Cities-ECO

Anita Shower- B.S.

Charter President 2012-2013

P.O. Box 2312

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September 23, 2013

Robert Perrault, City Manager
City of Grover Beach
187 South 8th Street
Grover Beach, CA 93433

CITY OF GROVER BEACH

SEP 24 2013

RECEIVED

Re: Zero Waste Projects

Dear Mr. Perrault:

I am working with Tom Martin of The Garbage Company in San Luis Obispo on these Zero Waste Projects that our Eco Club provides to communities and service clubs within communities.

When working within a community I am charged an eighty dollar (\$80) fee to have The Garbage Company have their manpower bring the roll-offs and waste wheelers to where we are working and then retrieve those containers after the event. Mr. Martin has suggested an alternative approach. Mr. Martin will have that eighty-dollar (\$80) fee absorbed within the community where we are working by making it a part of that city's garbage bill. This is made possible as long as Mr. Martin has a copy of a Resolution from the City, embracing our Zero Waste endeavors as well as having the city embrace what our Rotary Club of the Five Cities-Eco does in the way of this recycling/community service. An example: the Stone Soup event in Grover Beach. We recycled everything that could be recycled by placing all of that material into a recycling bin. These bins were retrieved after the event. All of the bottles and cans that were of value were taken to a redemption center. All of the trash on the ground and in containers was picked up during the two day event by our Club members and hand-sorted so we were able to place the items in the appropriate roll-offs: recycled items including

Mr. Robert Perrault
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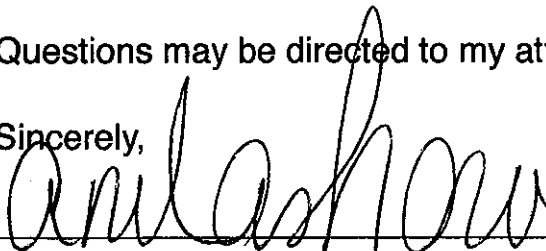
paper, paper products, plastic that had a code on it, foil, containers that were recyclable, and wrappers were placed in the appropriate bin. That left the 'food stuff.' The food stuff was all sorted and all 'food stuff' was placed in recyclable plastic bags labeled 'food stuff. Mr. Martin works with Engle and Gray out of Santa Maria and Engle and Gray are the ones who pick up the 'food stuff' bags and takes them back to their recycling center in Santa Maria.

We make every attempt to take the smallest footprint, after an event, to Cold Canyon. What goes to the Landfill? Unfortunately those styrofoam containers the vendors give out during events. The land fill buries these because (1) they do not have the process-in-place to render down these containers and (2) they are not going to spend the money to have a company come in and take all the styrofoam to a facility in another area of California. Styrofoam should be outlawed at events. I understand this is going to take time but it is a necessity for communities who want to be good stewards of the Earth.

Our club recycles everything that can be recycled. We have made two educational visits to Cold Canyon Land Fill. We are proud to offer this Zero Waste service to cities and communities within San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. We know we are making a difference and would certainly like to partner with the City of Grover Beach so events within Grover Beach are not only Zero Wasted but are embraced by the City of Grover Beach.

Questions may be directed to my attention.

Sincerely,



Anita Shower, Charter President -- 2012-2013
Secretary -- 2013-2014

/as

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