

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: December 18, 2024

CAO File No. 0130-02169-0000
Council File No. 21-1015
Council District: ALL

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT TWO APPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING GRANTS FOR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF STATES AND TERRITORIES – FY 2024**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), or designee, to prepare and submit two grant applications for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories – FY 2024; and,
2. Instruct the Director of the LASAN, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and to request approval for any related actions to implement the grant awards.

DISCUSSION

The Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) submitted two project prioritization forms in response to a notification of funding opportunity from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories – FY 2024.

On September 16, 2024, the EPA released a notice of funding availability for its Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories – FY 2024. The SWIFR grant will provide funding to support projects that result in a significant decrease in the generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) and/or an increase in the diversion of MSW from landfills and incineration. EPA is focused on supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management by increasing recycling, reducing contamination, and promoting a circular economy for sustainable materials management. Developing better solid waste management infrastructure and practices reduces climate, environmental, and social impacts of materials use, and keeps valuable resources in use and out of landfills. Application submissions for the SWIFR grant are due on December 20, 2024.

This Office received two project proposals from LASAN for the SWIFR grant, one for a “Residential Special Materials and Household Hazardous Waste Program” and one for the “City of Los Angeles Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program”.

Residential Special Materials and Household Hazardous Waste Program

LASAN will apply for funds in the amount of \$2 million for their Residential Special Materials and Household Hazardous Waste Program. From the amount requested, LASAN will utilize \$1.5 million to host 24 Household Hazardous Waste mobile collection events over three years to collect batteries and e-waste from residents to divert hazardous waste away from our landfills, prevent fires in collection vehicles and facilities, and prevent abandoned waste on City of Los Angeles streets, to protect public health and the environment. The mobile events will be held in disadvantaged communities to provide accessible recycling options. The other \$500,000 will support an outreach campaign to inform residents about safe practices for batteries.

City of Los Angeles Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program

LASAN will apply for funds in the amount of \$5 million for the City of Los Angeles Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program. The Los Angeles Reuse and Refill Initiative is an effort to reduce single-use plastics and promote sustainable practices in preparation for the 2028 Summer Olympics. The SWIFR grant will assist with expanding Citywide programs including the reusable food ware micro-grant program, reusable to-go containers at food service establishments, and to pilot reusable food ware systems at sports venues. In addition, it will help launch education and outreach campaigns and green jobs development. This project addresses pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges associated with plastic pollution while fostering a circular economy that benefits all Angelenos, especially underserved and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by plastic waste.

The estimated duration for each project is three years with a potential completion date of December 2028.

Applicant Eligibility and Availability of Funding

Applicants eligible to receive financial assistance to fund activities under the SWIFR grant are political subdivisions of states and territories. Political subdivisions include counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of government that have executive and legislative functions.

EPA will fund projects under two tracks:

- Track 1: Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, defined as a census tract identified by the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality’s Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool that is at or above the threshold for one or more environmental, climate, or other burdens, and at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden. If a project intends to serve multiple communities, only one community needs to meet the definition of a disadvantaged community.
- Track 2: Projects that benefit all other communities that do not meet the definition of disadvantaged communities as defined above.

There is no limit to the number of applications that each entity may submit for the SWIFR grant. LASAN intends to submit two project applications under Track 1. If an application does not provide adequate proof that it qualifies for Track 1, EPA will re-assign it to Track 2.

The SWIFR grant requires any project that includes the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the U.S. utilizing Federal funds to comply with Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 to 30 SWIFR grants for an estimated total of \$58 million, with at least one award per EPA region, ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million each, subject to availability of funds. EPA anticipates that approximately 40 percent, or \$23.2 million of the funding will be awarded to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Cost Sharing Requirements

There is no matching fund or cost-sharing requirement.

Required Approval to Accept Award

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a), all departments are required to seek Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving a grant award. It is therefore recommended that LASAN report back to the Mayor and Council upon award notification to request authority to accept and receive the grant award and confirm that there is no additional General Fund impact.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not result in a General Fund impact. There is no matching funds requirement for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories – FY 2024. However, upon notification of a grant award, a reassessment on the General Fund impact should be completed as it relates to either lower than requested grant award amounts, verification of local match requirements, or front-funding for grants on a reimbursement basis.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachment: Proposed Grant Projects

MWS/PJH/JVW:JAS:10250129

cc: CAO Grant Coordination

ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSED GRANT PROJECTS

Grant Administrator: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Name of Grant: Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories
 NOFO Release Date: September 16, 2024
 Award Date: December, 2025
 Performance Period: 3 years

Lead Department	Project Name	Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)	Residential Special Materials and Household Hazardous Waste Program	Host household hazardous waste mobile collection events to collect batteries and e-waste from residents and support an outreach campaign to inform residents about safe practices for batteries.	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$0.0	3 years (12/2028)
Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)	Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program	Expansion of the Los Angeles Reuse and Refill Initiative to reduce single-use plastics and promote sustainable practices in preparation for the 2028 Olympics.	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$0.0	3 years (12/2028)