

1 [Accept and Expend Grant - Zero Waste Database, City of Palo Alto - \$5,000]

2 **Resolution authorizing the Department of Environment to accept and expend a grant in**
3 **the amount of \$5,000 from the City of Palo Alto to assist in the creation of a web-based**
4 **application that enables the public to easily find accurate information about nearby**
5 **recycling, reuse, and disposal options.**

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7 WHEREAS, Environmental agencies have realized that a core component of recycling
8 and toxics reduction programs is the availability of accurate information about recycling, reuse
9 and proper disposal options for residents and businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, A number of online tools exist that serve this function, including SF
11 Environment's EcoFinder, StopWaste.Org's Recycling Wizard (Alameda County, CA), and
12 Oregon Metro's "Find a Recycler" tool (Portland region, OR); and

13 WHEREAS, Similar tools exist on the national level such as Earth911.com that do not
14 always reflect the specifics of recycling and disposal programs at the local level; and

15 WHEREAS, As these and other agencies look to upgrade their outreach tools to reflect
16 the trends of Web 2.0, such as interactive information sharing, interoperability, and user-
17 centered design, it is clear that a growing need exists in the public sector for a low-cost
18 feature-rich online platform for maintaining recycling services information that can be easily
19 deployed and promoted to maximize program outreach efforts; and

20 WHEREAS, One of the primary benefits of such a system is increased access to more
21 accurate data for members of the public who may not define themselves through geographic
22 boundaries that have limited the scope of previous recycling services databases; and

23 WHEREAS, This application will empower environmental agencies to easily maintain,
24 update, publish, and openly share data about recycling, reuse and disposal services; and

1 WHEREAS, Working with other entities to create the application will result in a better
2 tool than would be possible by the individual efforts and resources of those agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, This application will be a centralized web service with various mechanisms
4 (modules, widgets, data feeds, mobile app, etc.) for integration with participating agencies'
5 websites; and

6 WHEREAS, Developing this application as a flexible, centralized web service will
7 enable easy integration with other web services and data platforms, as well as the
8 development of future application features and improvements; and

9 WHEREAS, Open source, publicly licensed, well documented software is strongly
10 preferred; and

11 WHEREAS, This application will serve as a model for "Government 2.0" efforts to
12 deliver government services more broadly and efficiently while increasing transparency; and

13 WHEREAS, By collaborating on the development of such a platform, agencies and
14 organizations will lower development costs; and

15 WHEREAS, The counties of Alameda and Contra Costa and the City of Palo Alto and
16 the City of San Jose are partnering with the City and County of San Francisco on the creation
17 of this tool; and

18 WHEREAS, Serving as the lead in the creation of this tool ensures that the City and
19 County of San Francisco maintains a reputation of being a leader in the environmental field,
20 particularly in the area of Zero Waste; and

21 WHEREAS, The length of the project is from June 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012; and

22 WHEREAS, The grant budget includes provision for indirect costs of \$455.00; and

23 WHEREAS, This grant does not require an ASO amendment; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of
25 the Department of the Environment to accept and expend funding in the amount of \$5,000.00

1 from the City of Palo Alto to create an application that enables the public to easily find
2 accurate information about nearby recycling, reuse and disposal options.

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4 Recommended:

Approved: _____
Mayor

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7 Department Head

Approved: _____
Controller, Grant Division

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