Resolution authorizing the Department of Environment to accept and expend a grant in the amount of $25,000 from the County of Contra Costa to assist in the creation of a web-based application that enables the public to easily find accurate information about nearby recycling, reuse, and disposal options.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, This application will empower environmental agencies to easily maintain, update, publish, and openly share data about recycling, reuse and disposal services; and
WHEREAS, Working with other entities to create the application will result in a better tool than would be possible by the individual efforts and resources of those agencies; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The grant budget includes provision for indirect costs of $2,273.00; and

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

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of the Department of the Environment to accept and expend funding in the amount of
$25,000.00 from the County of Contra Costa to create an application that enables the public to easily find accurate information about nearby recycling, reuse and disposal options.

Recommended: 

Approved: 

Department Head

Controller, Grant Division
Resolution authorizing the Department of Environment to accept and expend a grant in the amount of $25,000 from the County of Contra Costa to assist in the creation of a web-based application that enables the public to easily find accurate information about nearby recycling, reuse, and disposal options.

June 14, 2011 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Mirkarimi and Wiener

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/14/2011 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Edwin Lee
Date Approved