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January 8, 2019

Air Quality Advisory Board
c/o Arsineh Hecobian, Chair
PO Box 580
Fort Collins, CO 80522

Dear Ms. Hecobian and Board Members:

On behalf of City Council, thank you for providing us the December 28, 2018 memorandum regarding "Air Quality Advisory Board recommendation on Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan and related Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)."

We appreciate you sharing your thoughts on this important topic, as detailed in your memo. Thank you for outlining why the Board "supports with reservations."

City Council currently has Regional Wasteshed Project listed on the February 12 City Council Work Session agenda. We encourage you to remain involved in the conversations and review the proceedings of that day, if you wish.

We sincerely appreciate your comments.

Thank you again for writing.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Troxell".

Wade Troxell
Mayor

/sek

Cc: City Council Members
Darin Atteberry, City Manager
Cassie Archuleta, Manager, Environmental Sustainability

Attachment



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 28, 2018

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers

From: Arsineh Hecobian, AQAB Chair

CC: Air Quality Advisory Board
Darin Atteberry, City Manager

Re: **Air Quality Advisory Board recommendation on Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan (SWIMP) and related Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**

AQAB Recommendation: Support with reservations

Summary of Recommendation:

The members of the City of Fort Collins Air Quality Advisory Board (with a vote of 8 in favor and 1 opposed) support the participation of the City of Fort Collins in the Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan (SWIMP) via an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) as presented by Mr. Honoré Depew during the November 19, 2018, AQAB regular meeting. The Board members have recommendations to address current and future environmental and air quality concerns as follows:

- Increased emissions due to higher traffic volume: AQAB recommends integration of more efficient traffic routes and use of electric vehicles to reduce emissions from vehicular exhaust for traffic related to wasteshed activities.
- Improvement of waste handling practices: AQAB recommends inclusion of plans to allow the integration of technologies, as they become available, for more efficient handling of waste throughout the wasteshed.
- Public awareness and education: AQAB recommends plans for the addition of policies that require waste reduction at the source (e.g., recycling) before and after the wasteshed plan is implemented with an emphasis on reducing overall waste production in the City of Fort Collins.
- Organic waste: AQAB recommends that construction of the organic composting facilities are accelerated and that City Council consider associated policy options to promote the collection of organic waste from restaurants and residences at the earliest possible date.

Dissenting Opinion:

The dissenting Board member had concerns that there is no evidence that new infrastructure is the only solution to reduce the generation or the diversion of various forms of waste in the region without any new initiatives and/or policy restrictions for the residential and business sectors in the participating cities. They did not see evidence that alternative and existing waste collection and handling resources are being used effectively and completely, even in the City of Fort Collins. The new infrastructure is fundamentally based on a business model that requires, promotes and perpetuates the regional generation of waste and its transport, and not local source reduction and ultimately elimination as a priority. Additionally, the dissenting opinion asked for consideration of:

- Decentralized operations at the level of neighborhoods, institutions and HOAs should be considered as alternatives to eliminate the reliance on SWIMP and for the transport of materials its citizens generate. The City of Fort Collins should be able to influence waste generators within its boundaries and be proactive on the environmental impact and incentivize innovative zero waste goals. The SWIMP does not provide a compelling case for local innovations or leadership in waste reduction from source to end of cycle.
- Impact of traffic, noise, plastic and dust pollution, and overall environmental quality, and views, for affected neighborhoods have not been addressed.