



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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April 05, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

**PREPARER:** Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

**DATE:** March 24, 2023

**TITLE:** **Approve the Purchase of One Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper, and Award Contract to Owen Equipment in the Amount of \$353,731.70, Including Tax; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Approve the purchase of one Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper, in the amount of \$353,731.10, including tax, and award contract to Owen Equipment through a Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The City Council approved the addition of a new street sweeper to the 2022/23 budget at the mid-year budget adoption on March 15. The Environmental Services Department is requesting this vehicle purchase at mid-year due to being informed by dealerships and cooperative purchasing entities that fleet vehicles are in high demand and that lead times for vehicle delivery are much longer than in previous years—often a one-year wait. Staff researched appropriate vehicles, including full electric options per a Council priority to shift towards an emission-free fleet. Staff recommends the Council consider for this urgent need, the purchase of one Lightweight Diesel Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper for the City to retire the very-aged current sweeper vehicle, satisfy upcoming air quality regulations and ensure reliable street sweeping service can continue for the City.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Street sweeping enables the City to meet community and beautification priorities as well as regulatory requirements to reduce stormwater contamination reaching our creeks, sensitive habitats, and Humboldt Bay. The City's current street sweeper is well-aged past its planned replacement timeframe and requires significant maintenance to stay in operation. Additionally, the sweeper vehicle will soon not be able to meet air quality requirements. The current street sweeper is a heavy-duty vehicle requiring a commercial driver's license.

City street sweeping services are carried out by a part-time City staff position requiring a commercial driver's license. The department has consistently found it difficult to attract and retain a part-time candidate that can be hired with a commercial license to start operations with minimal training. Hiring a candidate without a commercial license takes additional time from licensed full-time staff to supervise the new staff person operating the sweeper to log enough supervised qualifying hours behind the wheel.

The City used Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contract no. 093021-ELG and secured a quote from Owen Equipment (including taxes and delivery) of \$353,731.10 for the Lightweight Diesel Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper (included as Attachment A). The vendor anticipates the sweeper being available 240-365 days from the date of purchase. The lightweight vehicle would be able to be operated by an operator without a commercial license, expanding the potential pool of candidates to maintain more consistent street sweeping services throughout Arcata. The City also sought quotes for an electric street sweeper to explore if the department could start to shift our heavy-duty fleet towards electric. The quoted prices for an electric sweeper were over twice the amount of the lightweight diesel and due to its weight would require a commercial license to operate. Additionally, electric vehicle delivery can often be close to two years out or longer.

The Environmental Services Department recommends the purchase of the lightweight diesel sweeper. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to further advance our fleet towards a green fleet. Current supply chains and long lead times for electric vehicles (which we are also finding for hybrid vehicles) can compromise the City's ability to maintain current levels of service on our streets and within our departments.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total cost for the Elgin RegenX Street Sweeper is \$353,731.70. Budget for this purchase is available through the Central Garage Vehicle Capital account 771-50-57-57900 New/Used Vehicles, with operating transfers of \$120,000 from the General Fund (101), \$35,000 from the Wastewater Fund (662), \$75,000 from the Solid Waste Fund (664) and \$35,000 from the Stormwater Fund (666).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. City of Arcata- Elgin ReGenX Wandering Hose 3.3.2023 (PDF)