

**Policy Questions That Should Be Addressed / Answered Prior to Contract Approval**

- Will significant changes to the COA Biosolids Management Practices require modification or amendment to the City's TCEQ permit authorization?
- Will the elimination of, or a significant change to the City's Dillo Dirt product and program, require modification to the City's TCEQ permit authorization?
- Who will be responsible for securing any necessary modifications to the TCEQ permit?
- Should the City discontinue the existing Dillo Dirt Program of converting 1/3 or more of the City's biosolids into a composted biosolids product using a recipe of bulking agent carbon to biosolids nitrogen ratio of approximately 3 to 1, then composting, aging and screening the product in a manner that produces a fully-treated and stabilized 3/8 inch screened compost appropriate for beneficial use in landscaping for maximum moisture retention and for non-chemical nutrients needed for healthy lawns and plants?
- Should the City consider the time and resources to investigate necessary modifications to its TCEQ permit in order to discontinue or change the City's Dillo Dirt biosolids composting program?
- Should the City consider the time and resources to investigate necessary modifications to its TCEQ permit in order to accommodate significant changes to COA biosolids management practices at Hornsby Bend?
- Should the City identify best practices and formally adopt a hierarchy of highest-and-best use for biosolids produced at the City's waste water treatment facilities?
- Should the City determine whether or not Dillo Dirt composting is superior to the land application of Class A and/or Class B Biosolids?
- Should the City undertake a comprehensive inventory process of all bulking agent materials produced by City departments each year that could be used for biosolids composting?
- Should the City identify best practices and formally adopt a priority list of bulking agent materials to be used for biosolids composting?
- Should the City identify and include specific contractual obligations regarding potential nuisance conditions to surrounding property owners and public facilities, and to anyone affected by the land application of biosolids compost or biosolids sludge (Class B or Class A), including fire control, odor and vector control, odor mitigation plan for managing the odors generated from a large scale "agricultural composting" operation, with and without sufficient bulking agent?

- Should the City undertake a cost/benefit study to quantify the amount of conventional compost required to economically maximize water conservation on City-owned property, rights-of-way, parkland and golf courses?
- Should the City review its current practice of enforcing and/or modifying City Code requirements for using soil amendments and compost products on new development(s) over or near recharge zone(s)?
- What are the triggers in the contract to disallow the contractor from land application of Class B or Class A biosolids in or out of Travis County?
- Should the City develop and adopt formal definitions to be included in solicitations and contracts for the following the following terms: (1) Compost; (2) Composting; (3) Curing; (4) Screening
- Should the City develop and adopt a formal description and recipe for producing Dillo Dirt?
- Should the City license a private contractor the rights to use the trademark name “Dillo Dirt” and its associated logo? Should the license include specific restrictions? Should the City be paid or receive royalties for allowing a private contractor the rights to use the trademark name “Dillo Dirt” and its associated logo?
- Should the City’s Request For Proposal or similar type of solicitation favor direct land application or land application of Class B and/or Class A biosolids?
- Should the City adopt a position on whether or not composting is superior to other methods of biosolids disposal (including Class B land application in or out of Travis County, Class A land application in or out of Travis County, or landfilling)?
- What specific triggers or stipulations should be included in a contract for to disallow a contractor from land application
- Should City staff be allowed to determine whether or not the Dillo Dirt program should continue or cease existence?
- Should the City establish the fee schedule for all types of biosolids compost products produced by a contractor at Hornsby Bend?
- How much organic waste will be allocated to biosolids and from which sources?
- Will the City staff need to utilize flow control to secure sufficient bulking agent for treatment of biosolids, and which waste streams have they considered seeking control over?
- Where will the City and Synagro jointly work together to grind yard waste for composting, and will that include food waste grinding and/or biomass waste grinding for use as a fuel or for composting?

- Which contractors and whose property has the City and Synagro discussed using for the grinding, composting and fuel product production?
- How much bulking agent does the staff feel they need to justify the Hornsby operation and the separate off-site grinding operation contemplated in the Synagro contract?
- What has staff projected as its potential annual cost and revenue for the Hornsby operation and the separate grinding operation?
- Why has staff sought to withhold Synagro's confidential information that Synagro representatives have agreed to make available for public review?
- Does the proposed Synagro contract promote and even insure Dillo Dirt type composting over direct land application of biosolids?
- Does the proposed Synagro contract allow the production of product that could be represented to be compost that does not meet the definition of compost?
- Does the proposed Synagro contract allow the City to terminate the contract for cause if Synagro creates serious odor problems for the neighbors and the airport; and are their enforceable cure period and contract termination provisions?
- Can Synagro produce a Dillo Dirt grade of compost in 2 to 4 weeks, as stated from the City's biosolids?
- Can Synagro process yard waste with food waste contained in it offsite and bring that bulking agent to Hornsby for composting biosolids?
- What are the technical requirements for Synagro to meet to classify its product as compost? Also, the minimum # of days?
- What are the different types of composting methods and products staff and Synagro anticipate making over the term of this five- to ten-year contract?
- What bulking agent products would be excluded from use at Hornsby, including painted and treated wood, hazardous materials, etc.?
- Was the specific types of composting specified in the RFP specifications?
- Did the RFP allow the use of the name "Dillo Dirt" to the successful respondent for the benefit of marketing its compost product?
- Did the RFP have operating specifications requiring certain quality of production standards for the production and marketing of a contractor's compost to be sold as Dillo Dirt?

- Did the RFP require the successful respondent to gain any necessary variance to the Travis County solid waste siting ordinance, should the land application of biosolids be required for land use in Travis County for land application of biosolids? And, the same question for TCEQ permits required for land application of biosolids, including contract termination clauses for land applying biosolids without the proper authorizations from the state and the county or any municipality?
- Should the RFP be terminated, repackaged and reissued to clearly prescribe Dillo Dirt composting and rely only on land application in an emergency basis and as directed by staff or Council?
- Should the City allow a contractor to utilize a process that they refer to as composting, which doesn't produce a product that meets the US Composting Council's definition of compost?
- Was the Policy Decision in the RFP to reduce the land application of biosolids to a minimum? Has the proposed contract accomplished that goal?
- Is Synagro's Class A biosolids, as described on the record over the past 6 weeks a biosolids compost? On the order of Dillo Dirt?
- What is the economic policy decision driving the RFP, and does the draft contract meet that goal?
- Should the composting pad built for the production of Dillo Dirt continue to be used for the composting, curing, stabilization, screening and sale of Dillo Dirt?
- Is the City comfortable with privatizing the operation, program, marketing and sale of Dillo Dirt?
- What if Synagro processed Class B Compost to meet Class A standards in a 15-day Process for Further Reduction of Pathogens and vector control and then identified the wet, unstable, uncured and unscreened product as an Agricultural Compost, and the City or Synagro sold it to Mr. Click for \$0.86/cy to be hauled to and spread on farmland in Travis County controlled by Mr. Click? Would the City's wastewater treatment plant TCEQ permit allow such treatment of Biosolids for offsite shipment for land application on farmland not permitted to receive biosolids, and would the Synagro contract allow continued land application of the Class B biosolids until TCEQ such approval was received?