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DATE: September 9, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Jeff Stutsman, TE, PE, – Deputy Director of Operations, Public Works & Utilities (PW&U)  
Gina Benedetti-Petnic, PE – Interim Director, PW&U

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Bike Lane Sweeper for the Public Works & Utilities Department through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in the Amount of \$180, 682 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Documents Necessary to Complete the Purchase

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the purchase of a bike lane sweeper for the Public Works & Utilities Department through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$180, 682 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the purchase.

### **BACKGROUND**

In recent years, the City of Petaluma has increasingly focused on enhancing street safety to achieve the “Vision Zero” goal of eliminating severe and fatal collisions by 2023. The City has made significant strides towards creating safer, more accommodating streets by implementing buffered bike lanes. These lanes have been added as elements on Petaluma Boulevard South, Rainier Avenue, and North McDowell Boulevard. These improvements are part of a broader commitment to enhancing the safety of our roads with a complete streets framework, which aims to serve all road users—to ensure that people biking, walking, rolling, and taking transit are safely accommodated within our transportation networks.

Buffered bike lanes are a key component of this complete streets approach. They include a dedicated space that separates bicycle lanes from adjacent motor vehicle travel lanes. This added buffer enhances safety by increasing the distance between cyclists and vehicles, reducing the risk of accidents, and promoting a more comfortable riding experience.

There are various designs for buffered bike lanes. For example, parking-protected bike lanes use on-street parking as a barrier to separate the bicycle lane from motor vehicle travel lanes. Another

approach incorporates vertical elements, such as posts or berries, which provide a physical separation between vehicles and bike lanes. North McDowell Boulevard was the first street to incorporate vertical elements to increase bike lanes' protection and enhance street safety.

Although buffered bike lanes provide many advantages, maintaining these spaces poses unique challenges. Due to their limited access and width, traditional street sweepers cannot reach these lanes to clean the curb line. Currently, street sweeping services are contracted out to Recology, which handles all street sweeping in the public right of way. However, Recology does not have a smaller-style bike lane sweeper capable of fitting into these tighter spaces, so sweeping along these curb line areas is skipped.

During summer, bike lanes accumulate gravel and debris from travel lanes, and in fall and winter, fallen leaves gather. Currently, the street crew cleans these areas by hand as needed. It takes a crew of four approximately ten hours to clean the bike lane to the curb line on North McDowell Boulevard.

To address these maintenance challenges, the City collaborated with two bike lane sweeper manufacturers to demo their products on Rainier Avenue and North McDowell Boulevard. Agencies in Sonoma County, including Recology, participated in these demonstrations. Discussions were held about partnering with Recology to purchase and incorporate a bike lane sweeper into our sweeping contract. However, a partnership with Recology on this purchase included multiple challenges, such as needing additional tow vehicles and trailers, requiring multiple sweepers to cover all interested agencies, and the willingness to pursue smaller sweepers.

Given these considerations, staff recommends purchasing a bike lane sweeper independently. The preferred model is the Multihog CV 350 Compact Multi-Purpose Sweeper, known for its versatility and dubbed the "Swiss Army knife" of machines. While its primary function is sweeping, it also has attachments for pressure washing, graffiti removal, mowing, trash collection, and winter maintenance.

This versatile machine will address the needs of current and future buffer bike lanes and serve multiple functions throughout the City. It can assist in clearing debris from multi-use paths like Lynch Creek Trail and the East Side Ring Trail, maintaining park spaces, cleaning the Keller Street Garage, preparing for storms by clearing streets for runoff, and addressing other issues typically handled manually.

## **DISCUSSION**

The City of Petaluma is a member of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program (formerly National Joint Powers Alliance), which allows the City to access competitively awarded, nationally leveraged cooperative purchasing contracts. The purchase of specialized equipment provides better prices on state and national cooperative lists since local vendors do not sell this type of specialized equipment. Participating in this competitively bid and awarded statewide purchasing program complies with the Petaluma Municipal Code, Section 4.04.100 (Cooperative purchasing programs), which supports the purchases of supplies and equipment made under a

cooperative purchasing program with the State, County, or other public agencies that have been competitively bid and awarded.

The following is provided as background information on the cooperative purchasing program. Sourcewell is continuously refining its Request for Proposal process to meet its members' needs, which will meet or exceed them. Sourcewell identifies its members' needs through regular outreach, advisory committees, and research on the best approaches. After member need is established, permission to develop the solicitation and procurement process is sought from its publicly elected Board of Directors. A draft solicitation is created and publicly advertised and noticed. A pre-conference is held to clarify and answer questions. If needed, addendums are issued. Proposals are date-stamped when received. A committee evaluates the proposals received by the bid closing date and time, and the findings are given to the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sourcewell and Fleets for the Future (F4F) have created a partnership to coordinate the increased procurement of alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) throughout the United States. F4F is a national partnership of regional councils, Clean Air coalitions, and industry experts. They aim to coordinate five regional and one national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of AFV. This helps to disseminate best practices, usage, and procurement strategies for vehicle selection and assists with vehicle cost reduction.

The Multihog CV 350 Compact Multi-Purpose Sweeper is a renewable diesel vehicle. Sourcewell and Fleets for the Future (F4F) have created a partnership to coordinate the increased procurement of alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) throughout the United States. F4F is a national partnership of regional councils, Clean Air coalitions, and industry experts. They aim to coordinate five regional and one national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of AFV. This helps to disseminate best practices, usage, and procurement strategies for vehicle selection and assists with vehicle cost reduction.

The total cost for the bike lane sweeper is \$180,682.00 under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program. This is based on competitive bidding conducted by Sourcewell, with a bid awarded to Multihog (Sourcewell Contract #111522-MUL) and purchased through their approved vendor, Municipal Maintenance Equipment, Inc.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on August 5, 2024, which was a publicly-noticed meeting.

## **COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT**

This proposed action supports City Council goals and the following workplan items:

- Workplan Item #15 – “Identify funds and develop plans to improve Petaluma’s Streets and Roads.”
- Workplan Item #42 – “Find ways for City Operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, decrease waste, and minimize the use of fossil fuels and investigate and pursue options for carbon sequestration.”

- Workplan Item #79 – “Improve traffic safety through proactive education, engineering, and enforcement strategies.”
- Workplan Item 203 – “Impose a moratorium on City purchases of fossil fuel-powered vehicles, power equipment, and appliances, with limited exceptions for emergency vehicles and equipment when no low climate pollution causing alternatives are reasonably available.”

## **CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**

Multihog currently offers only a diesel model of their sweeper. However, they are developing an electric version, which is expected to become available around mid-2025. The timeline for this release may be extended based on demand for existing orders and the production schedule, as the electric models are manufactured outside the United States. Additionally, the cost of the electric model is approximately twice that of the diesel version.

Given our immediate need for a bike lane sweeper, purchasing a diesel model that uses renewable diesel is recommended. Renewable diesel offers a lower carbon footprint and aligns with our climate action goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional diesel. We can reassess the need for an electric model in the future if we require a second vehicle and if the electric version becomes available.

The diesel model is available for delivery without delay, allowing us to address our current needs promptly while continuing to pursue long-term climate-friendly solutions.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), in that purchasing a bike lane sweeper does not meet CEQA's definition of a “project” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. If this action was a project it would exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) as the equipment would be used to maintain bike lanes which are existing facilities.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

The street sweeper purchase is included in the approved FY 24/25 budget under the Streets vehicle and equipment appropriations. The approved budget for a new street sweeper was \$120,960. The total cost of the Multihog CV Sweeper is \$180,682, which will require an additional budget of \$59,722. The Street Maintenance Fund has sufficient balance to cover this additional budget, which will be brought to Council for approval with the first quarter adjustments for FY 2024-25.

The street sweeper will save staff time as our maintenance staff can be used elsewhere due to this efficiency. Cleaning the bike lanes may save the City in potential claims costs from bike users.

The total of the street sweeper quoted by Municipal Maintenance Equipment is shown below:

| <b>Bike Lane Sweeper: Multihog CV 350</b> |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Sell Price w/ Sourcewell Discount:        | \$165,000        |
| Taxes:                                    | \$15,675         |
| CA Tire Fee (4 @ \$1.75 Each)             | \$7.00           |
| <b>Total Cost:</b>                        | <b>\$180,682</b> |

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternatives considered but not recommended include:

1. Continue manual cleaning: maintain the current practice of cleaning bike lanes by hand as needed. This approach is labor-intensive and less efficient and does not address the growing need for more effective and timely maintenance of bike lanes.
2. Pursue an electric bike lane sweeper: This option is expected to be available in 12 to 18 months. Securing additional funding and grants to cover the higher cost of the electric model would be necessary. During the interim period, bike lanes would be cleaned manually, resulting in delays and potentially less effective maintenance until the electric sweeper is delivered.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution
2. Quote