

**Metro Waste Authority Board**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
**March 21, 2018**  
**AGENDA ITEM 12**

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**ITEM: Approval to expand scope of feasibility study for material recycling facility (MRF).**

**SUMMARY:** Due to recent and critical challenges with the processing of recyclables locally, the scope of the approved MRF feasibility study needs accelerated. In addition to financial and operational analysis and market evaluations, conceptual plans and renderings will be included in the report to the Board to ensure comprehensive data is available for a decision at this critical juncture.

**DISCUSSION POINTS:** Challenges with the processing of recyclables locally have been at the forefront of MWA Board discussions since 2016. A recent decline in recyclables markets due to industry changes globally have created further challenges for our local recycling processor, Mid America Recycling (MAR). In January, MAR first reported they were unable to sell mixed paper and the issue was becoming critical. On Feb. 16, they delivered the first loads of mixed paper to Metro Park East to be landfilled due to lack of end market. MWA has been using the material in operations as beneficial use and we're seeking buyers. MWA is committed to finding a sustainable solution for the processing of recyclables for member communities. Accelerating the MRF feasibility study will enable the MWA Board to move forward with a responsible plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval for additional funding to expand scope of feasibility study for material recycling facility.

**BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:** \$68,700; previously approved project was under Executive Director's threshold. Funding is available through existing budget.

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**Attachment:** HDR Proposal to provide Engineering Services: MWA MRF Feasibility Study