



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** 7/18/2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 805-568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Interim Deputy Director,  
(805) 882-3627

**SUBJECT:** Request for Waiver on Competition in Purchase of a Proprietary Aerated Static Pile System at the Tajiguas ReSource Center - Third Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Purchasing

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Purchasing Agent to waive competitive bidding to procure a proprietary covered aerated static pile compost system (SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers) for the Public Works Department from Sustainable Generation, LLC, not a local vendor, in an approximate amount of \$4 million; and
- b) Authorize the Purchasing Agent to advance a deposit of \$100,000 to Sustainable Generation, LLC in order to secure an order for the manufacture of the GORE® covers; and
- c) Determine that the proposed actions are not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15378(b)(2), as it involves administrative and other general policy and procedure making activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize the purchase of a proprietary covered aerated static pile system from Sustainable Generation, LLC, to replace the open windrow system currently being used at the composting management unit of the Tajiguas ReSource Center.

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the Board may waive the competitive bidding requirement for the purchase of goods where there are limitations on the source or supply. County staff and its consulting engineer, has evaluated options to replace the current method of processing digestate produced by the dry fermentation digesters used at the ReSource Center into compost due to the need for enhanced odor control. Due to the space limitations, need for better runoff control, and ability to control odors, the use of the proprietary SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers manufactured by Sustainable Generation, LLC is recommended. Therefore, staff requests that the Board waive the competitive bid requirement and authorize the County Purchasing Agent/Chief Procurement Officer to procure the proprietary SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers from Sustainable Generation, LLC. Staff is currently evaluating the design of the system and will submit the final cost and scope proposal to the County Purchasing Agent/Chief Procurement Officer for execution of a purchase order. However, due to long lead times on the manufacture and shipping of the GORE® Covers of 2 to 3 months, staff also requests that the Board authorize an initial purchase order in the amount of \$100,000 to advance a non-refundable deposit for the GORE® Covers in advance of the final purchase order.

This waiver is recommended because this product is proprietary, is manufactured by only one vendor, and is needed in order to ensure timely access to this equipment. Staff will return to the Board with a separate action to award a contract for the installation of the SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers and a Budget Revision for the total cost of procurement and installation.

**Background:**

The County of Santa Barbara owns and operates the Tajiguas municipal landfill. As a means to divert waste in order to preserve the life of the landfill, as well as in consideration of other environmental and regulatory factors such as compliance with SB 1383, the County contracted with a third party, MSB Investors, to construct several facilities including a materials recycling facility, a dry fermentation anaerobic digester facility, and a composting management unit that composts organics recovered from the region's municipal solid waste as well as source separated food waste. These facilities have been in service since fall of 2021. Organic material captured at the materials recovery facility is subsequently processed at the anaerobic digester and composting management unit.

The method for breaking down the digestate from the anaerobic digester into compost to date has been conventional windrowing. This process takes up to six weeks and during that time, each windrow is turned five or more times. Unfortunately, this process also liberates odors that are problematic when the digestate converts from an anaerobic state to an aerobic state. This phenomenon has been studied for the last several months and several interim attempts to mitigate odors have proven to only have limited success. More permanent solutions to process digestate into compost and to better odor control has been pilot tested and based on both the site limitations (i.e. small size and limited storm runoff capture) and results of the testing, staff recommends the use of a covered system. The only commercially available and proven covered product is the proprietary SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers manufactured by Sustainable Generation, LLC. This system offers various benefits and features. It provides an in-vessel process that reduces odors and volatile organic compound emissions while complying with strict California air quality regulations. Additionally, it meets pathogen reduction requirements and holds EPA 503 approval, making it suitable for use by CalRecycle and the County Environmental Health Services' Local Enforcement Agency. The system allows for the separation of process water from storm water and has a small footprint. It is also modular and expandable, allowing for customized designs. Moreover, it is feasible for all feed stocks such as digestate, source separated organics, and municipal solid waste. It can operate in variable climate conditions, is simple to operate, and has low operating costs. Furthermore, it produces a consistent stable compost product in a shorter

treatment time, typically three weeks. The system can be quickly installed and includes air blowers, motors, pipes, weights, and the membrane covers. The membrane covers typically have a useful life of between 5 and 7 years. That time period also allows staff to evaluate other permanent arrangements such as composting at an offsite location or the construction of a separate onsite biofilter, both of which requires further engineering, environmental review, permitting, and cost analysis.

This waiver is recommended for procurement of a proprietary covered aerated static pile system intended to reduce odor emissions and improve the processing of digestate to compost. Based on preliminary design data, staff anticipates the cost of the SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers to be approximately \$4 million. When the final scope and cost proposal from Sustainable Generation, LLC is negotiated, it will be submitted to the County Purchasing Agent/Chief Procurement Officer for execution of a purchase order. For this reason and as a means to expedite the manufacturing of long lead items, namely the GORE® Covers, staff further recommends that the Board authorize the County Purchasing Agent/Chief Procurement Officer to execute an initial purchase order in the amount of \$100,000 to secure an order for the GORE® Covers in advance of the final purchase order.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funds to procure and install the SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers are available in the Solid Waste Enterprise Capital Reserve fund. Staff will return to the Board with a separate action to award a contract for the installation of the SG MOBILE® System with GORE® Covers and a Budget Revision to the FY 2023-2024 budget for the total cost of procurement and installation.

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving this item to:

- 1) General Services, Purchasing Division, 260 N. San Antonio Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Attention: Phung Loman, (805) 568-2697
- 2) Public Works, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, 130 East Victoria Street, Suite 100 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Attention: Dalia Khan, (805) 882-3605

**Attachments:**

None

**Authored by:**

Martin Wilder, P.E., Interim Deputy Director, (805) 803-8755

**Copy:**

Gloria Alvarez  
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