



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: September 9, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director
Contact: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Deputy Director
SUBJECT: **Agreement with Clear Water Services, Inc. for Optimization of the Active Treatment System at the Tajiguas ReSource Center; Third Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget Office

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Clear Water Services, Inc. to provide optimization of the Active Treatment System at the Tajiguas ReSource Center for an amount not to exceed \$319,600;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010778 (Attachment B) increasing appropriations in the amount of \$319,600 in Fund 1930, funded by the release of Retained Earnings;
- c) Determine that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, no substantial changes are proposed, no substantial changes in circumstances have occurred, and no new information of substantial importance regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures have occurred, and therefore the recommended action is within the scope of the prior environmental review documents for this project, Addendum dated August 12, 2024 considered on September 10, 2024. Addendum dated August 15, 2023 considered on October 3, 2023, Revised Addendum dated October 26, 2017, considered on November 14, 2017, Subsequent EIR No. 12EIR-00000-00002, certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016 and Subsequent EIR Revision

Letter and Errata dated May 27, 2016, and no new environmental document shall be prepared for this project.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to consider approval of an Agreement with Clear Water Services (Clear Water) for optimization of the Active Treatment System (ATS) located at the ReSource Center Compost Management Unit (CMU). Under the proposed scope of work, Clear Water will install a three-part system upgrade that improves chemical application, promotes effective solids separation, and optimizes hydraulic flow through the treatment process.

Staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for a total not to exceed amount of \$319,600, and for the period of September 9, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Staff also requests approval of a budget revision increasing appropriations in the amount of \$319,600 in the Public Works Resource Recovery & Waste Management Enterprise Fund, which is funded by the release of Retained Earnings to fund the optimization of the ATS, and associated piping, chemical dosing and pump systems.

Discussion:

As part of the ongoing commissioning of the ATS, Clear Water conducted bench-scale treatability testing of the liquids that come into contact with compost to evaluate performance improvements related to chemical pretreatment and solids separation. The results demonstrated the effectiveness of upstream chemical dosing combined with enhanced settling infrastructure and targeted plumbing reconfigurations. Approval of this Agreement will improve hydraulic control, increase residence time, and enhance overall system performance of the ATS, which is needed to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements.

Background:

The Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division is responsible for the operation of composting activities at the CMU and subject to compliance with state and federal regulations to ensure its safe operation. The CMU maintains compliance with the Compost General Order No. WQ-2020-0012-DWQ by operating the ATS pursuant to Order No. R3-2022-0035, NPDES No. CA993004, General NPDES Permit for Limited-Threat Discharges. On January 16, 2025, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board provided the Notice of Applicability for the CMU enrollment in the Order and authorized the County to discharge treated effluent on May 2, 2025.

Construction and operation of the ATS was analyzed in a CEQA Addendum (dated September 12, 2024) to Subsequent EIR No. 12EIR-00000- 00002 considered by the Board on September 10, 2024 (available for review at [Environmental Documents | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website](#)[Environmental Documents | Santa Barbara County, CA - Official Website](#)). Pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15162 the minor additional internal and external changes to the ATS system proposed as a part of the continued optimization do not result substantial changes to the prior environmental review documents for the ReSource Center and no new environmental document is required. Staff recommends that the Board approve the Agreement with Clear Water for ATS optimization for a total not to exceed amount of \$319,551 and an end date of June 30, 2026.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes, upon the approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010778.

Fiscal Analysis:

The cost will be incurred in fiscal year 2025/26 and with the approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010778, the budget will be in the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund 1930, Program 1860 and line-item account 8200. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Funding Source	FY 2025/26 Cost	Annualized On-going Cost	Total One-Time Project Cost
Fund 1930 – Release of Retained Earnings	\$ 319,600	\$ -	\$ 319,600
Total	\$ 319,600	\$ -	\$ 319,600

Special Instructions:

Following Board approval, Clerk of the Board to please forward a stamped, certified copy of the Minute Order approving this action, and signed copies of the Agreement to:

Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, Attn: Yanette Luna, 130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Services with Clear Water Services for ATS Optimization

Attachment B – Budget Revision No. 0010778

Contact Information:

Christina Wilder, P.E.
Civil Engineer
cwilder@countyofsb.org