



**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: PW/LCSD
Department No.: 054
For Agenda of: February 25,
2025
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Laguna County Sanitation District
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., PW Director (805) 568-3010
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, P.E., LCSD Manager, (805) 803-8750
SUBJECT: **Award of Photovoltaic Power Generation System Repair Project at the Laguna County Sanitation District Wastewater Reclamation Plant, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of Laguna County Sanitation District:

- a) Award the construction contract in the base amount of \$298,972.51 to the lowest responsible bidder, Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC (not a local vendor), subject to the provision of documents and certifications as set forth in the plans and specifications applicable to the project, as required under California law;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Construction Contract with Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC;
- c) Authorize the Public Works Director or designee to approve change orders for a contingency amount up to \$30,000 for the construction of Photovoltaic Power Generation System Repair Project, Project No. SOLRP1 for a total, not-to-exceed contract amount of \$328,972.51; and
- d) Find that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162 that there are no substantial changes proposed, no substantial changes in circumstances, and no new information of substantial importance regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore the recommended actions are within the scope of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Laguna County Sanitation District Photovoltaic Solar Energy Project (10NGD-00000-00025) approved by the Board of

Directors on February 1, 2011 available for review at County of Santa Barbara - File #: 11-00105 (legistar.com), and no new environmental document is required.

Summary:

This item is on the agenda in order to consider the award of a construction agreement for the Photovoltaic Power Generation System Repair Project at the Laguna County Sanitation District wastewater reclamation plant, Project No. SOLRP1 to Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC.

Discussion:

The Laguna County Sanitation District operates a 1 MW solar photovoltaic system to offset energy demands at its wastewater reclamation plant that went into service in March 2012. At this time several panels are no longer functioning. Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC submitted a bid in the amount of \$298,972.51 opened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday November 21, 2024 to replace non-functioning panels and perform other repairs. This was the only bid received. Staff analyzed the bid and determined that it is in accordance with criteria set forth in the bid documents and the California Public Contract Code. Staff finds Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder and recommends award to this contractor as well as a construction contingency of \$30,000 for a total budget authorization of \$328,972.51.

Background:

The Laguna County Sanitation District (District) owns and operates a wastewater reclamation facility which serves the Orcutt community and the southern unincorporated Santa Maria area. The operation of a wastewater reclamation facility does require significant electrical usage. To help offset electricity costs, the District constructed a 1.0 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility that went into service in March 2012. This facility is comprised of 4,056 ground mounted panels.

Over time certain components of the system require repair or replacement as components age or wear. The most recent repair project was the replacement and upgrade of the inverters in 2023, which was a planned activity due to obsolescence and reduced performance. A subsequent performance analysis revealed that several panels had degraded and were no longer functioning and that a significant number of panel wire connections showed signs of corrosion. The project consists of replacing 59 panels known to be no longer functioning due to weathering and water damage in addition to the replacement of electrical panel connectors that were observed to have degraded O-rings, which are used to prevent rainwater intrusion. There may be some additional panels in need of replacement as three of the 20-panel strings were in non-operation mode due to faulty electrical connectors, which prevented the use of a drone heat sensor inspection. Therefore, additional solar panels may be required to be replaced in the event that a subsequent infrared inspection shows that additional panels are inactive.

Environmentally, the original installation and operation of the Photovoltaic Solar Energy Project was addressed in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Laguna County Sanitation District Photovoltaic Solar Energy Project (10NGD-00000-00025). The proposed agreement would provide for the repair of panels and other equipment analyzed in the prior CEQA review. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the contract for the repair work is within the scope of the prior environmental review and no new CEQA document is required. In addition, the repair work is consistent with repair and maintenance activities identified in the *Final Habitat Conservation Plan Laguna County Sanitation District Facilities Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Western Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County, California* dated February 2017 (HCP); and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Number TE16913C. Applicable avoidance and minimization measures identified in the HCP and ITP will be implemented.

On October 15, 2024, the Board authorized the Public Works Director to advertise and receive bids for project. One bid was received on November 21, 2024, submitted by Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC in the amount of \$298,972.51. This is 3.05% higher than the engineer's estimate which was \$290,000. Staff finds the bidder to be responsible and the bid to be responsive and recommends award to this contractor as well as a construction contingency of \$30,000 for a total budget authorization of \$328,972.51. This project is recommended in order to maintain and increase the longevity of the power generating facility.

Fiscal Analysis:

Laguna County Sanitation District operates an enterprise fund and cost for this project is included in the District's FY 2024-2025 Adopted Budget with funds budgeted for major cyclic repair costs in Department 054, Fund 2870, Line Item Account 7200.

Special Instructions to Clerk of the Board:

- A. Request Clerk of the Board to forward a certified minute order and one fully executed agreement to Kevin Thompson at the Laguna County Sanitation District administrative office in the North County Public Works Department building at 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455, or by email at kethomp@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Construction agreement with Motive Energy Storage Systems, LLC

Authored by:

Kevin Thompson, Civil Engineer Specialist

Copy:

Angela Arredondo, Accountant Supervising
File