



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: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: June 9, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning & Development
Contact: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy Minerals and Compliance Division
SUBJECT: Agreement for Services with MRS Environmental, Inc., for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Decommissioning of the Freeport McMoRan Gaviota Onshore Facilities and Pipelines within Santa Barbara County, Case No. 24DRP-00001

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:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with MRS Environmental Inc. (Agreement)(Attachment A) to provide professional services to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Decommissioning of the Freeport McMoRan Gaviota Facilities and Pipelines within Santa Barbara County, Case No. 24DRP-00001.
- b) Approve and authorize the Director or the Director's designee subject to the Board's ability to rescind this authority at any time to:
 - i) Approve up to a 10 percent contingency cost not to exceed \$23,096 for services performed under the Agreement for a total contract amount not to exceed \$254,056;
 - ii) Approve changes or additions to the services being performed, provided the contract does not exceed the approved amount plus the contingency; and
 - iii) Make immaterial changes in accordance with Section 33 of the Agreement and suspend performance per Exhibit A of the Agreement.
- c) Determine that the Agreement and the Board of Supervisor's actions are not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and therefore, are exempt from CEQA in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5)(Attachment C).

Summary Text:

This item includes a request by Planning & Development to execute a professional services contract for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the Freeport McMoRan Gaviota Facilities Decommissioning project.

Discussion:

The proposed Project is a private development project that requires the County to prepare an EIR, as it requires a discretionary permit, would directly cause a physical change to the environment, and may have a significant effect on the environment. The Planning and Development Department is the CEQA Lead Agency for the proposed Project and proposes using a third-party consultant to prepare the Project EIR. Planning and Development issued a Request for Proposals in February 2026 and selected MRS Environmental Inc. (MRS) based on their prior experience and professional qualifications. The Agreement's total contract amount of \$254,056 exceeds the County's \$200,000 cumulative contract threshold and therefore requires Board of Supervisor's approval prior to the start of work. Upon the Board's approval, the Project Applicant would fund the contract in its entirety, and Planning and Development would provide MRS a Notice to Proceed to execute the Agreement's Statement of Work. The Agreement for Services is provided as Attachment A. The Board Contract Summary is provided as Attachment B. The CEQA Notice of Exemption is provided as Attachment C.

Freeport-McMoRan (Applicant) with technical assistance from Chevron West Coast Decommissioning Program is proposing to decommission the Gaviota Onshore Facility and pipelines within Santa Barbara County and in State Waters, consisting of the demolition and removal of surface and subsurface facilities and remediation of impacted soils at the Gaviota Onshore Facility, abandonment in-place (or removal where exposed and across drainages) of two parallel oil and gas pipelines along an approximately 17-mile onshore segment, abandonment in-place of subsurface pipeline segments from shoreline valve vaults to the seafloor approximately 1,056-feet offshore, and removal of two parallel oil and gas pipelines from the seafloor to the 3-nautical mile State Waters boundary. The Gaviota Onshore Facility is located at 17100 Calle Mariposa Reina, APN 081-130-070, within the Coastal Zone in the Third Supervisorial District. The proposed work requires a Demolition and Reclamation Permit (Case No. 24DRP-00001) from the Planning and Development Department in accordance with Section 35-170 of the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Article II).

Background:

The Applicant submitted a permit application in February 2024, which after comprehensive re-submittals, was determined to be complete on November 10, 2025 for further processing and environmental review. To support this process, Planning and Development initiated a competitive bid process and issued a Request for Proposals to prepare the Project EIR on February 6, 2026, and received two proposals by the March 6, 2026, deadline. Together with the Applicant, Planning and Development evaluated the proposals and selected MRS to execute their Statement of Work. Tasks involved with the preparation of the EIR include but are not limited to a document scoping meeting and report, peer review of the Applicant's technical reports, preparation of the administrative draft, public draft, administrative final, and final EIR, and attendance in decision-maker hearing(s).

MRS has previously contracted with the County to prepare environmental documents for other oil and gas projects, as well as with other jurisdictions on similar decommissioning projects such as the Decommissioning and Remediation of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil & Gas Processing Facility Project EIR, and the Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery Demolition and Remediation Project EIR. Their proposal demonstrated the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required. MRS proposes to subcontract certain EIR tasks to Applied Earthworks and Coast

Transportation Consulting, LLC. Like MRS, both subcontractor firms have similar EIR experience, as well as the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required. Planning and Development would oversee MRS’ completion of the Statement of Work upon Board approval and execution of the Agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

The contract total is not to exceed \$254,056.00, which includes a base amount of \$230,960.00 and a 10 percent contingency of \$23,096.00. Any use of contingency funds would be identified by MRS and approved by the Director or her designee prior to the start of the contingency task(s). Any unspent funds would be returned to the Applicant at the time of contract termination. Upon contract approval, the Applicant would provide a one-time deposit of the full contract amount to the Planning and Development Department. In addition to the contract costs, Planning and Development would also invoice the Applicant for all staff time necessary to administer the Agreement, as well as for all staff time required to process the permit, including work on the associated EIR. No General Fund contributions are needed. There would be full cost recovery for the contract as well as for staff time associated with the Project; however, if needed, there are sufficient appropriations in the Permitting Budget Program to cover the cost of the Agreement for Fiscal year 2026 – 2027, and if not, a budget revision could be prepared.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal		
Fees		
Applicant Funded	\$254,056.00	\$254,056.00
Total		\$254,056 .00

Staffing Impacts:

No additional staffing is required to implement and manage the Agreement.

Special Instructions:

Please forward an original executed Agreement and a copy of the Hearing Minute Order to Planning and Development, Attention: David Villalobos, Hearing Support Supervisor at dvillalo@countyofsb.org, and Jacquelynn Ybarra, Supervising Planner at jybarra@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with MRS Environmental Inc. (Signature Required)

Attachment B – Board Contract Summary

Attachment C – CEQA Notice of Exemption

Contact Information:

Jacquelynn Ybarra
 Supervising Planner
 Energy Minerals and Compliance Division

iybarra@countyofsb.org