

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 6/6/05
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 6/28/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director
Public Works Department

STAFF CONTACT: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, ext. 3603
Mark Tautrim, Operations Manager, ext. 5626

SUBJECT: Bird Abatement Contract
Second and Third Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and execute the attached Agreement with Wingmaster Falconry Services for bird abatement services at the Tajiguas Landfill and South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Since the falconry program was initiated at the Tajiguas Landfill in 2002, the abatement of seagulls (gulls) from the site has been extremely successful. Before the program started thousands of gulls each day would inhabit the landfill while the landfill operators unsuccessfully tried to deter the birds using such means as whistlers and poppers, distress calls, balloons, even flying model airplanes.

Typically, gulls gather at a landfill for the food. Experience has shown that the gulls become a source of pollution for adjacent creeks and their confluence with the ocean.

A falconer's job is to fly the falcons when gulls approach the trash. Upon observing the falcons or sensing the presence of the falcons, the gulls quickly disperse. Once the gulls have flown away, the falcons are trained to return to the falconer.

As soon as the falcons were introduced in 2002, the number of gulls diminished significantly. There are now days when there are no gulls whatsoever, and a "bad" day is one in which maybe a hundred fly over. However, when there are no falcons present, gulls know that it is safe to come back and can again pollute the area.

The continuation of this program will help assure a cleaner and healthier climate for all who work at and visit the landfill as well as ensuring cleaner beaches, creeks and landscapes nearby.

Although, to date, falconry services have not been used at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, this agreement allows for such services if required.

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, through the Purchasing Department, recently requested bids from qualified falconers for the purpose of establishing a bird abatement contract. There were five companies who submitted proposals. The bids ranged from \$45.00 per hour to \$65.00 per hour. Wingmaster Falconry is the low bidder at \$45.00 per hour and comes to us with very good references.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The falconry program is an integral part of the "Bird Management Plan" submitted as part of the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion EIR (01-EIR-05) which was certified in 2002.

The agreement with Wingmaster Falconry Services for bird abatement will maintain the current level of bird abatement service through June 30, 2006.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

In Fiscal Year 2002/2003 approximately \$140,000 was spent on the falconry program at Tajiguas. In Fiscal Year 2003/2004 approximately \$148,000 was expended, and for this fiscal year, 2004/2005, approximately \$150,000 will be spent.

Funds in Fiscal Year 2005/2006 for the services of this contractor to furnish bird abatement at Resource Recovery and Waste Management sites in the amount of \$150,000 have been appropriated in the recommended 2005/2006 budget and are derived from revenues collected from the Tajiguas Landfill waste shed. Funding will be made available through Budget Unit 8810, Fund 1930, Account 7460, Program 1200.

The services provided will not impact other County facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please forward one signed copy of the Agreement and Minute Order to both Georgia Navarro and Mark Tautrim in the Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Risk Manager