



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: July 1, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, P.E. Director, ext 3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, P.E., Deputy Director, ext 3605

SUBJECT: **Baron Ranch Management Contract**
Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations for managing the Baron Ranch:

- A) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Ag Land Services (not a local vendor) for the management of Baron Ranch for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$420,000.
- B) Find that the proposed action is for the operation and maintenance of the Baron Ranch (an existing county-owned facility) involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, that the proposed action is therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR 15301, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The proposed Agreement with Ag Land Services is for the management of Baron Ranch, which the County purchased in 1991 primarily as a buffer to the Tajiguas Landfill. Baron is planted with approximately 90 acres of avocado and 7 acres of cherimoyas which are professionally managed under contract. In addition, Ag Land Services will maintain areas of native vegetation that have been restored as part of a mitigation program for impacts associated with projects at the Tajiguas Landfill and required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as well as state and federal permits. This

proposed contract is for two years from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016 at a cost not to exceed of \$420,000.

Background:

The County purchased the Baron Ranch in 1991 primarily to serve as a buffer to the Tajiguas Landfill, which is located in the canyon immediately west of the ranch. Baron is planted with approximately 90 acres of avocado and 7 acres of cherimoyas which are professionally managed under contract. This proposed agreement contains provisions for all agricultural costs related to the avocado and cherimoya trees including irrigation maintenance and supervision, fertilization, pruning and thinning of the groves, weed and rodent control, erosion control measures, light road maintenance, and coordination and supervision of harvesting and selling fruit from the ranch.

The Division is in the process of restoring 50 acres of native vegetation as part of a mitigation program for impacts associated with projects undertaken at the Tajiguas Landfill and required under CEQA as well as state and federal permits. The restoration is occurring in a total of seven phases, with five phases already planted. Upon review of the proposed cost to continue to maintain the five restored areas using the current restoration consultant, Ag Land Services was able to provide a more cost-competitive approach to maintain the already planted areas. The consultant responsible for planting the restored areas will continue to monitor the phases already restored and serve as a resource to Ag Land Services if issues associated with the restoration arise during the maintenance of these areas.

Ag Land provides ranch management services to several ranches in Santa Barbara County and has managed the Baron Ranch for the last 16 years. A competitive RFP was issued in 1997 and 2002 and Ag Land was chosen both times due to their experience, cost control, and use of best management practices.

Performance Measure:

None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The costs for the management of the avocado and cherimoya orchards at the Baron Ranch and the associated revenues from the sale of the fruit are included in the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division budget for FY 14/15 and FY 15/16.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

Please provide the minute order and a copy of the signed contract to Leslie Wells at the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of Public Works.

Subject: Baron Ranch Management Contract Third Supervisorial District

Page 3 of 3

Clerk of the Board to please post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, attn.: Joddi Leipner.

Attachments:

- 1) Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor Between the County of Santa Barbara and Ag Land Services.
- 2) Notice of Exemption

Authored by: Leslie Wells, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, ext. 3611.