

**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: A-22
Prepared on: 2/27/02
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 3/12/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Director *PMC*
Public Works *for PMD*

STAFF CONTACT: Mark A. Schleich, Deputy Director X-3603 *MAS*
Imelda A. Cragin, Permitting and Engineering Manager X-3613 *IAC*

SUBJECT: Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project Environmental Impact Report Contract
All Supervisorial Districts

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Execute Amendment No. 3 to the contract with TRC Environmental Solutions, Inc. (TRC), an out-of-County vendor which will:
1. Authorize an amount not-to-exceed \$857,064 for the scope of work necessary to complete the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR), bringing the total contract amount to \$1,968,776;
 2. Extend the contract term from June 30, 2001 to June 30, 2003.

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:

The Public Works Department is requesting approval of Amendment No. 3 to the contract with TRC Environmental Solutions, Inc. (TRC) for the completion of the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (Tajiguas Expansion Project) Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This amendment is consistent with your Board's direction to assure maximum opportunities for public input and participation in the

environmental process for the Tajiguas Expansion Project and to provide a complete and thorough environmental analysis of the proposed project. This third amendment includes the scope of work and costs incurred from the date of execution of Amendment No. 2 on July 20, 1999, to December 2001. This work was necessary to respond to changed circumstances and new data resulting from regulatory agency input on the Draft EIR, direction from your Board, and additional studies related to the Tajiguas Expansion Project. The approximate cost for this portion of the third amendment is \$547,064. This third amendment also includes the scope of work and costs necessary to respond to public and agency comments on the Draft EIR and to prepare the Final EIR. The approximate cost for this portion of the third amendment is \$310,000. The total amount of TRC Contract Amendment No.3 is \$857,064.

Background

1. Incurred Costs from date of Amendment No. 2 (July 20, 1999) to December 2001.

On July 20, 1999, your Board approved TRC Contract Amendment No. 2. The scope of work for this amendment included: 1) the additional tasks necessary for completing the preparation of the EIR, and 2) the preparation of a Technical Financial Analysis Document of the project-level options and alternatives, as a stand-alone document separate from the EIR. TRC Contract Amendment No.2 was for the amount not-to-exceed \$517,630, bringing the entire TRC contract to an amount not-to-exceed \$1,111,712. TRC Contract Amendment No. 2 did not include the scope of work and cost for the preparation of the Tajiguas Expansion Project Final EIR, since it is not possible to know the nature and extent of public and agency comments on the Draft EIR until they are received. County staff reported during that July Board Meeting that a third amendment to the TRC contract would be needed in the future for the completion of the Final EIR.

Two weeks later, on August 3, 1999, your Board held a hearing on Refuse Disposal Strategies for the South Coast. During that hearing, your Board directed staff to modify the project description for the Tajiguas Expansion Project from 25 years to the goal that the Tajiguas Landfill be closed within 15 years. Your Board also approved the removal of the CAC Alternative (Compost, MRF and Transfer Station, and future technology facility at the Tajiguas Landfill) from CEQA project level consideration in the Tajiguas Expansion Project EIR based on input from the public at that hearing.

Approximately \$40,000 was saved by removing the CAC Alternative from the scope of work as contained in Amendment No. 2. However, the change in the project description from a 25-year expansion project to a 15-year expansion project necessitated substantial changes in most of the analyses contained throughout the Draft EIR. The changes in the analyses were required for two configurations (the Front Canyon Configuration and the Back Canyon Configuration) that would be analyzed in the EIR at project level. The most significant and costly changes in the Draft EIR were necessitated by the need to respond to comments made by regulatory agencies. The response to comments from regulatory agencies also resulted in a major reconfiguration of the Front Canyon Configuration and a minor revision to the Back Canyon Configuration.

On October 8, 1999, a Revised Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed Tajiguas Expansion Project was released. The project description of the original proposed 25-year capacity expansion project was revised as a response to the scoping comments received from the public, regulatory agencies, trustee agencies, interested parties subsequent to the release of the April 1, 1998 original NOP. The revised project description for the proposed project also incorporated the August 3, 1999, directives from your Board. The proposed project to be analyzed in the Draft EIR now consisted of a 15-year capacity expansion of the

Tajiguas Landfill. The CAC Alternative (Compost, MRF and Transfer Station, and future technology facility at the Tajiguas Landfill) would not be analyzed at project level.

During the 30-day public comment period for the Revised NOP from October 8, 1999 through November 8, 1999, County staff conducted two Public Forums (in Goleta and in Santa Maria) and two Scoping Meetings (in Santa Barbara and in Buellton) to provide information to the public and interested parties and to receive scoping comments on the revised proposed project. The comments received by County staff on the Revised NOP were in reference to the project description and all environmental issues areas.

Between November 9, 1999 and October 12, 2001, TRC prepared the Tajiguas Expansion Project Draft EIR. During this period, significant changed circumstances required that various studies be conducted with input from regulatory agencies to ensure a thorough and complete analysis of the proposed project. The studies generated new data which was then reviewed and commented upon by regulatory agencies, including Santa Barbara County Planning and Development, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Local Enforcement Agency of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The comments received from these regulatory bodies required additional analyses by TRC and County staff. (See attached Exhibit A-3, Scope of Work, Task Area 2: Changed Circumstances/New Data that Affected the Draft EIR for a detailed description of all the changed circumstances and new data).

The Tajiguas Expansion Project Draft EIR was released on October 12, 2001 for the CEQA-required 45-day public comment period, which was to end on November 26, 2001. County staff held five Public Comment Meetings throughout the County (Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Buellton, Goleta, and Lompoc) for the public and interested parties to comment on the Draft EIR. County staff extended the public comment period an additional 2 1/2 weeks to December 14, 2001 at the request of the public during the Public Comment Meetings.

The approximate cost for this portion of the third amendment is \$547,064.

2. Response to Comments on Draft EIR and Final EIR Preparation and Review (January 2002 to June 2003.

County staff and TRC have reviewed the public comments received on the Tajiguas Expansion Project Draft EIR. The comments received touched on all sections analyzed in the document, with the major comments referring to the sections on Water Resources, Geology, Air Quality, Visual Resources, Land Use and the Alternatives. TRC will prepare and Administrative Final EIR that includes the responses to public and agency comments, including the required technical analysis. CEQA requires that the Final EIR provide a written response to all comments received on the Draft EIR. In addition to the Final EIR, a Mitigation Monitoring Plan will be prepared that will set forth the processes and procedures to be followed by the County for monitoring the implementation of the various mitigation measures included in the EIR and monitoring compliance with the mitigation measures.

The level of effort required by TRC to address all comments received on the Draft EIR and to complete the Tajiguas Expansion Project Final EIR is included in this TRC Contract Amendment No.3. The approximate cost for this portion of the third amendment is \$310,000.

The total for Contract Amendment No.3 is for the amount not-to-exceed \$857,064, bringing the entire TRC contract to an amount not-to-exceed \$1,968,776.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no changes in mandates or service levels associated with the implementation of the recommendation presented here to your Board.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no facility impacts associated with the implementation of the recommendation presented here to your Board.

The original contract with TRC together with Contract Amendments No. 1 and No.2 was for an amount not-to-exceed \$1,111,712. Total TRC contract expenditures as of February 1, 2002 were \$1,111,324. Amendment No. 3 to the TRC contract is for the amount not-to-exceed \$857,064, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,968,776. Funds for the remaining amount of \$857,064 have been budgeted for fiscal year 2001/2002. Any remaining funds not spent during the fiscal year 2001/2002 will be rebudgeted for fiscal year 2002/2003.

Special Instructions:

Direct Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the executed Amendment No. 3 to the TRC contract and Minute Order to the Solid Waste and Utilities Division, Attention: Imelda Cragin, Georgia Navarro and Bill Hanrahan.

Concurrence:

County Counsel as to form;
Risk Management
Auditor-Controller