



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

Public Works

Department Number:

054

Agenda Date:

July 7, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:

N/A

Continued Item:

No

If Yes, date from:

N/A

Vote Required:

Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director

CONTACT: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreements with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

for regulatory compliance consulting services at County-owned and operated solid waste facilities; First and Third Supervisorial Districts

Concurrences:

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:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (a local vendor) for groundwater and landfill gas compliance consulting

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services, for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in the not-to-exceed amount \$195,270; and

- b) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (a local vendor) for stormwater compliance services and to the operation, optimization, and discharge compliance of the Tajiguas Landfill Active Treatment System (ATS) for a term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$281,100; and
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve the attached professional services Agreements with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) to provide regulatory compliance consulting services as directed by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department. The scope of regulatory compliance and consulting services is for four monitoring and reporting periods each pertaining to groundwater at the Ballard Canyon Closed Landfill, Foxen Canyon Closed Landfill, New Cuyama Closed Landfill, Santa Ynez Airport Closed Landfill, and Tajiguas Landfill; for four monitoring periods pertaining to landfill gas surface emissions monitoring at the Tajiguas Landfill; and for stormwater-related technical consulting at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS), Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS), Foxen Canyon Closed Landfill (FCCL), the ReSource Center and Tajiguas Landfill. County facilities are subject to compliance with federal and state regulations and approval of the Agreements will assist the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) in continued compliance with these regulations. Geosyntec will also support RRWMD by advising on chemical dosing, operational setpoints, jar testing, system performance monitoring, and regulatory reporting related to wastewater discharges by the ATS through June 30, 2027.

Discussion:

On August 23, 2024, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) adopted Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R3-2024-0036. This General Order requires owners and operators of specified closed landfills to comply with updated and consistent waste discharge requirements within the Central Coast Water Board's jurisdiction.

Geosyntec provides statistical analysis and environmental database management at a proficiency beyond RRWMD's current in-house capabilities, including the use of specialized statistical modeling software to generate predictive parameters for analyte concentrations. Their team includes licensed geologists and hydrogeologists who utilize specialized software and analytical tools to evaluate large environmental datasets and maintain the accuracy and defensibility of RRWMD's mandated monitoring and reporting programs. Without continued professional support and consulting services from Geosyntec, RRWMD would be required to assume additional technical

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responsibilities associated with environmental monitoring, data evaluation, and regulatory reporting. Geosyntec's specialized technical expertise and extensive knowledge of RRWMD sites and facilities provide an important risk management function by helping ensure accurate, timely, and defensible compliance with regulatory requirements. Their continuity of service, interpretation of long-term historical datasets, and familiarity with site-specific monitoring trends support consistent and defensible regulatory compliance and reporting.

Professional services supporting the ATS add value from a risk management perspective. Given the history of technical and operational challenges associated with the ATS, proactive professional engineering and regulatory reporting support, reduces the risk of treatment deficiencies or reporting inaccuracies that could lead to permit violations or noncompliance with regulatory requirements.

Approval of the professional services Agreements with Geosyntec will support the RRWMD in maintaining compliance with the General Order and with the site-specific monitoring and reporting program that was issued following enrollment.

Background:

The RRWMD is responsible for the management and operation of solid waste facilities and the ReSource Center in Santa Barbara County. The waste management facilities are subject to compliance with state and federal regulations to ensure their safe operation. The approval of the Agreement for compliance consulting services is an administrative activity that would not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Each of the sites where the services will be provided are all permitted and/or closed solid waste management facilities that were subject to prior CEQA review.

Geosyntec is listed on the Public Works Department's Prequalified Consultant Listing for 2025-2027, approved by your Board at the December 10, 2024 hearing. Geosyntec has historically provided consulting services to the RRWMD for over 15 years. Geosyntec has expertise in groundwater, solid waste management regulations, and a detailed knowledge of geological, hydrogeological, and stormwater conditions at the County's waste management facilities. The Department recommends the professional services Agreements with Geosyntec be authorized for continued regulatory groundwater compliance services in the amount of \$195,270, for regulatory stormwater compliance and for the continued regulatory discharge compliance services associated with ATS services in the amount of \$281,100, both services with an end date of June 30, 2027.

Performance Measure:

Consultant performance will be monitored throughout the term of the Agreement through regularly scheduled coordination meetings, review of project deliverables, and evaluation of consultant support during regulatory reporting and compliance activities. Performance will be assessed before regulatory deadlines through pre-submittal reviews, adherence to schedules, quality of work products, responsiveness to County requests, and effective management of subcontracted laboratory services. Key performance outcomes include:

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1. Timely deliverables of technical reports, permit applications, regulatory responses, monitoring results, and other project deliverables within agreed-upon schedules
2. Technical quality, accuracy, and integrity
3. Responsiveness, availability and communication
4. Comprehension and compliance with current regulatory requirements
5. Consistent environmental monitoring and laboratory coordination
6. Safety and environmental protection
7. Proactive and technically sound evaluations and recommendations supporting ATS operations, stormwater compliance, geotechnical investigations, and data trends.
8. Effective management of subcontracted services.

Contract Renewals:

Geosyntec has provided consulting services to our organization for approximately 15 years. During this time, they have provided critical technical support and prepared timely regulatory deliverables while developing familiarity with our facilities, operations, and applicable requirements. Their continued involvement has contributed to operational continuity and institutional knowledge that have been beneficial in addressing ongoing technical and regulatory needs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Costs are budgeted in the RRWMD Enterprise Fund and will be incurred in fiscal year 2026/2027 under Programs PG-0541750 and PG-0541700, Spend Category SC-7460. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Funding Source	FY 26/27	Total One-Time Project Cost
Enterprise Fund	\$ 476,370	\$ 476,370
Total	\$ 476,370	\$ 476,370

Special Instructions:

Please forward a copy of the executed Agreements and the Minute Order approving this action to:

- Juliette Mudge, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, AOP II at mudgej@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Services with Geosyntec Groundwater Compliance Services for FY 26/27 *(Signature needed)*

Attachment B – Agreement for Services with Geosyntec Stormwater Compliance and ATS Limited Threat Discharge Compliance for FY 26/27 *(Signature needed)*

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