



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: November 13, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Director x 3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director x 3605

SUBJECT: **Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project – Contracts for Preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report and Air Quality Technical Report First, Second and Third Supervisorial Districts**

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 and execute a professional services contract with the consulting firm of Padre and Associates for preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project in the amount of \$193,178 (which includes a contingency amount of \$32,196) (Attachment 1).
- B. Approve and execute a professional services contract with the consulting firm of AECOM for preparation of an Air Quality Technical Report and Biological Technical Report for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project in the amount of \$237,000 (which includes a contingency amount of \$21,600) (Attachment 2).

Summary Text:

On January 17, 2012, your Board endorsed a recommended resource recovery project (Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project) to process waste currently buried at the Tajiguas Landfill and directed staff to initiate review of the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project involves the construction and operation of a Materials Recovery Facility and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the Tajiguas Landfill to further recover recyclable material from the waste stream and convert the material not recycled into beneficial products such as energy, fuels or other potentially marketable products. Non-recyclable waste (residue) would continue to be disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill.

The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD) is requesting that the Board approve the proposed contract for the preparation of a Subsequent EIR for the Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project. A request for proposals was sent to six consulting firms, three firms responded (one unsolicited) and Padre and Associates was selected as the recommended Contractor. The proposed not-to-exceed cost is \$193,178¹ which includes a contingency amount of \$32,196 that could be authorized by the Director of Public Works to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the Subsequent EIR proposal.

The Subsequent EIR will incorporate a number of technical studies that are being prepared under separate contracts. Contracts for these technical studies will be issued through purchase orders or through the Public Works Department's Master Services Agreement process. However, due to its higher value, included in this Board Letter is the approval of the proposed Air Quality and Biological Technical Reports with the consulting firm of AECOM in the amount of \$237,000 which includes a contingency of \$21,600 that that could be authorized by the Director of Public Works to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the Subsequent EIR proposal. Air Quality (including a health risk assessment and greenhouse gas emissions) is anticipated to be a key issue area in the Subsequent EIR and will require a significant amount technical modeling and analysis. Although not expected to be a key issue area, the Biological Technical Report would also be completed by AECOM and is included in the overall scope of work. AECOM prepared the biological analysis for the prior EIR on the Tajiguas Landfill and has significant knowledge regarding the biological resources present at the landfill.

The total anticipated consultant costs for the CEQA review process including the preparation of the Subsequent EIR, preparation of eleven Technical Studies to be included in the Subsequent EIR, and project management is projected to be \$1.2 million (\$1 million with an additional contingency of 20% due to the complexity of the project) to be funded through a surcharge assessed on the Tajiguas Landfill tipping fee beginning in fiscal year 2013/14.

¹ Subsequent to selecting Padre Associates based on the original RFP process, additional modifications to the scope of the Subsequent EIR analysis were identified by RRWMD and Padre's scope and cost proposal have been adjusted accordingly.
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Background:

On January 17, 2012, your Board endorsed a recommended resource recovery project (Tajiguas Landfill Resource Recovery Project) to process waste currently buried at the Tajiguas Landfill and directed staff to initiate review of the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project involves the construction and operation of a Materials Recovery Facility and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the Tajiguas Landfill to further recover recyclable material from the waste stream and convert the material not recycled into beneficial products such as energy, fuels or other potentially marketable products. The non-recyclable residue would continue to be disposed of in the Tajiguas Landfill. A detailed account of the history of the project and the selection process was provided as an attachment for the January 17, 2012 Board hearing and can be found at <http://santabarbara.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1041138&GUID=C5291EEE-2E5E-4E61-891A-EBCD5ECF4F6F>.

Since January, staff has prepared and issued a CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) and NOP Scoping Paper, completed a public scoping meeting for the proposed CEQA Subsequent EIR and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Consultant to prepare the Subsequent EIR. The comment period on the NOP extended from April 19th, 2012 to May 18th, 2012 with the public scoping meeting held on May 14th. The NOP and NOP Scoping Paper are available for review at <http://conversiontechnologystudy.com/pages/environmental-documents.php>. The comment letters will be included in an appendix to the Draft Subsequent EIR.

The Subsequent EIR will include an analysis of the following issue areas: Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Risk of Upset/Fire/Health and Safety, Geologic Processes, Noise, Land Use, Transportation/Circulation, Water Resources, Nuisances, and Growth Inducement. The Subsequent EIR will also address additional input/comments on the scope and content of the EIR received from the CEQA responsible and trustee agencies and public during the NOP comment period.

The State CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR include a statement of the objectives sought by the proposed project. The project objectives help guide the selection of project alternatives to be analyzed in the EIR and ultimately will assist in evaluating whether to adopt or reject project alternatives in lieu of the proposed project. The project objectives for the Resource Recovery Project are based on the Guiding Principles developed by the Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Task Group and the goals set out for the project as contained in the RFP. During the NOP scoping period, the County received comments directed towards eliminating or modifying the objectives included in the NOP. The County has reviewed the comments and as a part of the Subsequent EIR is adjusting the objectives to respond to these comments.

Several comments received were related to the continued use of the Tajiguas Landfill for disposal of residue from the proposed Resource Recovery Project and the stated objective of extending the life of the Tajiguas Landfill. Waste from the south coast of Santa Barbara County, the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Buellton and Solvang, as well as the Santa Ynez and Cuyama valleys is currently disposed of at the Tajiguas Landfill. In the original solicitation for waste conversion technologies and vendors (see <http://conversiontechnologystudy.com/media/documents/10-20-09%20FINAL%20RFP.pdf>) authorized by the Board of Supervisors on October 13, 2009, the county identified that residual waste would be disposed of in the Tajiguas Landfill. In 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved the expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill including adding 8.2 million cubic yards of additional disposal capacity. At that time, it was estimated that the added cubic yards would be filled by the community's waste in 15 years. Due to the economic downturn and the correlated reduction in waste produced as well as the continued recycling efforts in the community, the landfill is currently expected to have sufficient capacity until 2026. The proposed project is not a replacement for the Tajiguas Landfill but a 20-year solid waste management plan that includes processing waste that is currently disposed to recover recyclable materials and converting the non-recycled material into beneficial products such as energy, fuels or other marketable products. Therefore, it is a reasonable and appropriate County objective to maximize and extend the landfill's useful life and to continue to use the landfill for disposal of any residue (non-recyclable waste) from the Resource Recovery Project.

As required under CEQA, and as requested by the Board of Supervisors at the meeting of January 17, 2012, the Subsequent EIR will include a robust analysis of project alternatives. CEQA requires that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, including alternative project sites, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen the significant effects of the project. The goal of the EIR analysis would be to identify, and select the environmentally superior project alternative if that alternative is determined to be feasible.

As identified in the NOP, alternatives to be considered will include the no project/no action alternative (which would equate to not building the Resource Recovery Project facilities and continuing to dispose of waste in the Tajiguas Landfill until the permitted capacity is reached), use of alternative waste conversion technologies (including alternatives to the use of anaerobic digestion for organic waste), expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill, disposal at other permitted landfills (in- or out-of-county), and alternative locations for components of the project.

With respect to alternative sites for components of the project, several comments suggested the evaluation of sites for the MRF closer to the urban area. Additionally, MarBorg Industries proposed that their property in downtown Santa Barbara which currently houses their C&D Recycling and Transfer Facility be evaluated as an alternative site for the MRF. This site, and potentially other sites that may be identified as the CEQA process continues, will be included in the Subsequent EIR and evaluated at a level that will allow your Board to make an informed decision in selecting the most environmentally superior feasible site.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

It is estimated that total costs to complete the environmental review of this project including project management, preparation of the Subsequent EIR, preparation of eleven Technical Studies, and a 20% contingency due to the complexity of the project, will be \$1.2 million. Included in this cost is a Waste Characterization Study that is required to be completed prior to negotiation with the project vendor for a service contract. This contract will come to your Board for approval next fiscal year. Costs will be funded through a surcharge assessed on the Tajiguas Landfill tipping fee beginning in fiscal year 2013/14. The City Managers for the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara as well as the County Executive Officer for the County of Santa Barbara have recommended that the cost of the environmental review be funded through a surcharge at the Tajiguas Landfill to be paid by all ratepayers using the facility. The surcharge would start July 1, 2013 and be in effect until June 30, 2016. Based on the current tonnage of material buried at Tajiguas and the anticipated cost of the review, the surcharge will be approximately \$2.45 per ton. In year 3, the actual revenue from the surcharge and the costs associated with the review will be reconciled and the proposed surcharge will be adjusted accordingly.

Fiscal Analysis:

The cost of the attached contracts will be paid out of the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund through a surcharge assessed on the Tajiguas Landfill tipping fee over a 3 year period of time starting July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016.

Special Instructions:

Please send certified stamped copies of the minute order to Mark Schleich, Joddi Leipner, and Colleen Hankins in the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department

Attachments:

1. Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor –Padre and Associates
2. Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor – AECOM

Authored by:

Joddi Leipner, Public Works x3614

cc: Project File