



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: September 20, 2011
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 Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project –
Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration Phase III Implementation.**

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:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Contract No. BC-11-051 with the consulting firm of Ecological Conservation and Management, Inc. (ECM) (not a local vendor) for the implementation of Phase III of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan and maintenance and monitoring of Phase III through December 2012 in the amount of \$199,950 for a total contract not to exceed of \$568,652 (with a contingency amount of \$36,870), which is part of the required mitigation program for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project.

Summary Text:

In May 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. The landfill reconfiguration impacts federal and state wetlands and the federally threatened California red-legged frog. As mitigation for the landfill reconfiguration project, Resource Recovery and Waste Management (RRWMD) is required to restore native habitats on the county-owned Baron Ranch. Phase III restoration is planned to begin in fall 2011.

Phase I of the mitigation/restoration activities was completed in summer/fall 2009 and involved the relocation of all California red-legged frogs from the Tajiguas Landfill to Baron Ranch (Arroyo Quemado) and the restoration of approximately two acres of freshwater marsh and riparian vegetation. Phase II involved the restoration of 9 acres of riparian forest along Arroyo Quemado and ~1 acre of

chaparral restoration (~13,000 plants). After a competitive bid process, work on Phase 2 was awarded to ECM in October 2010. ECM completed the riparian forest installation in fall 2010/winter 2011 and is currently maintaining and monitoring the restoration areas. The Phase II area was recently inspected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and both agencies were impressed by the progress and success of the restoration activities to date.

Phase III includes 8 additional acres of riparian forest along Arroyo Quemado north of the Phase II area. RRWMD is recommending that the Board approve an amendment to ECM's existing contract to implement the Phase III restoration and maintain and monitor the restoration area until December 2012. A contract amendment is recommended because: 1) Phase III restoration is similar in scope to the Phase II restoration completed by ECM; 2) ECM has demonstrated good success in the Phase II area and; 3) ECM will already be on site through December 2012 to maintain and monitor the Phase I and II areas. Therefore, RRWMD believes contracting with ECM would reduce the cost and implementation inefficiencies involved in having multiple contractors on site. ECM is using its 2009 labor rates to help lower project costs, and while ECM is not a local vendor, the company employs local workers for the installation and maintenance activities. ECM's proposed cost for the Phase III work is \$199,950 for a total not to exceed cost of \$568,652. The previously approved contingency in the amount of \$36,870 would remain the same and could be authorized by RRWMD to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the proposal.

Background:

The county-owned Baron Ranch is a 1,083 acre ranch located immediate east of the Tajiguas Landfill approximately 25 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara along the Gaviota Coast. The property was purchased to provide a buffer between the landfill and adjacent private holdings, to prevent future subdivision/residential development next to the landfill, to allow flexibility for solid waste operations, provide options for mitigation, and to provide possible future public recreational access. Arroyo Quemado which runs north-south through the Baron Ranch supports a breeding population of California red-legged frogs. Approximately 97 acres of the property are currently developed with avocado and cherimoya orchards. Restoration opportunities have largely been identified adjacent to Arroyo Quemado in abandoned and active orchard areas.

The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and the Baron Ranch Restoration Project were analyzed in 08EIR-00000-00007 certified by the Board on May 5th, 2009. The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project will permanently impact ~11.8 acres of Pila Creek including sensitive habitats (wetlands) and sensitive species (California red-legged frog) regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To comply with regulatory agency permits and CEQA, restoration of 38 acres of native habitats and placement of approximately 30 acres in a conservation easement is required¹. An additional 14 acres of upland habitats (coast live oak woodland and Venturan coastal sage scrub) will also be restored on Baron Ranch to mitigate impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project approved by the Board in 2002.

¹ As noted during the original Board approval of the Reconfiguration Project, approximately 30 acres of the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor is also required to be placed within a conservation easement to provide long term protection for the California red-legged frog. RRWMD is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on the easement and will return to the Board for dedication of the easement.

The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project is currently in progress. Waste placement in the reconfigured area is expected to begin in September 2011. In total, restoration is proposed to occur in approximately six installation phases (each phase involve approximately 5 years of maintenance and monitoring). As noted previously, two phases of installation have been completed and the third is the subject of this Board letter. RRWMD is investigating implementation options for the remaining phases, maintenance and monitoring options for the previously restored areas after December 2012, and coordinating/combining management of the restoration areas with management of the ranch agricultural activities.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Phase II costs of this contract, occurring in the prior 2010/11 FY, amounted to \$234,554.00. Funding for the remaining \$171,019 of Phase II costs (including contingency) as well as the proposed \$199,950 for Phase III of this contract will be budgeted over the next two fiscal years with \$243,693 budgeted in the FY 2011/12 Resource Recovery & Waste Mgt. Enterprise Fund budget. Total one time project costs for this contract, including contingency, will be \$605,523.

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Enterprise Fund	\$ 243,693.00	\$ 361,830.00	\$ 605,523.00
Total	\$ 243,693.00	\$ 361,830.00	\$ 605,523.00

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Costs associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Projects have been incorporated into the Division’s long term financial plan. Current year costs of \$243,693 have been included in the Division’s 2011/12 FY budget.

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. Photos of the Phase II Restoration Areas
2. Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (Board Contract No. BC-11-051)

Authored by:

Joddi Leipner, Public Works x3614

cc: Project File

ATTACHMENT 1 – SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Phase II Restoration Area – East side Arroyo Quemado Creek (December 8, 2010)



Phase II Restoration Area – East side of Arroyo Quemado (July 19, 2011)



Phase II Restoration – West side of Arroyo Quemado Creek (January 6, 2011)



Phase II Restoration – West side of Arroyo Quemado Creek (July 19, 2011)