



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: January 13, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Deputy Director
SUBJECT: **Authority to Advertise for the ReSource Center Biogas Treatment System Upgrade Project; Third Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to advertise and receive bids for the ReSource Center Biogas Treatment System Upgrade Project; and
- b) Determine that the above-recommended action is 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 action consists of an administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The Public Works Department is requesting Board authorization to advertise for construction bids for the Biogas Treatment System Upgrade Project (Project). Construction of this Project will take place at the ReSource Center Anaerobic Digesting Facility (ADF) and is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2026. The Project upgrades the existing biogas treatment system to more effectively remove siloxanes from the biogas stream, preventing the abrasive deposits formed during combustion that can grind, overheat, and foul engine components, accelerating wear and reducing engine life.

Discussion:

The project will reconfigure the biogas treatment system to operate in “lead/lag” where treatment of biogas goes through a first activated carbon vessel followed by treatment through a second and then third activated carbon vessel (in series). The treatment vessels are currently plumbed in parallel, limiting overall treatment efficiency. Re-plumbing the vessels to a series configuration will improve the system’s effectiveness and ensure compliance with the permit issued by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD).

Background:

The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD) of the Public Works Department owns and operates the ReSource Center Anerobic Digestion Facility, pursuant to SCBAPCD Authority to Construct Permit 14500-10. The ADF operates 16 digesters, two (2) combined heat and power (CHP) engines, and one (1) flare. The ADF digesters produce biogas with an average of approximately 500 standard cubic feet per minute (SCFM). Pursuant to the SBCAPCD permit, all biogas routed to the CHP engines must be treated by the activated carbon vessel system prior to combustion. Except during media change out and system maintenance, the carbon vessel system must be operated in a “lead/lag” configuration at all times.

The ADF is currently operating under a variance granted by the SBCAPCD; upgrading the Biogas Treatment System and changing the piping to an in-series configuration is a critical step that must be completed to exit the variance.

Construction of the project will be competitively bid. The construction contract is anticipated to be awarded in early March 2026, with work beginning in April. All construction work for this project will be conducted at the existing ADF.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This project is included in the County of Santa Barbara 2025-2030 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund 1930, Program 1200, Line-Item Account 8200 will provide 100% of the project funding.

Special Instructions:

Please forward a certified, stamped Minute Order approving this action to:

- Yanette Luna, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, AOP Sr at yluna@countyofsb.org.

Authored by:

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