



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 Health  
Department No.: 041  
For Agenda Of: May 03, 2011  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Director(s) Public Health Dept.  
Contact Info: Jennifer Bernstein, 681-4934  
Director, Environmental Health Services

**SUBJECT: Professional Services Contract with AECOM**

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**County Counsel 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 a Professional Services Agreement with AECOM to provide a preliminary engineering report for wastewater collection and treatment facilities in the Township of Los Olivos for the period May 3, 2011 through June 30, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$179,700. This vendor is a local vendor.

**Summary Text:**

The Township of Los Olivos is not served by a public sewer. Consequently, all developed properties utilize onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) for wastewater disposal. The poor soils, shallow groundwater and small lots in the area are not conducive to the use of conventional septic systems. As a result, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has placed severe wastewater flow restrictions on each lot that limit the owner's ability to fully utilize their property. AECOM was selected to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report for a small community wastewater collection and treatment facility to initially serve the commercial district of the Los Olivos Township.

**Background:**

The Township of Los Olivos has a base population of approximately 1,000 residents. As a popular tourist destination in the county wine country, the population can swell to two or three times that on weekends and holidays. While Los Olivos receives drinking water from the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, there is no public sewer. The 400 residential and 52 commercial parcels are served by private onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems).

The conditions in many parts of Los Olivos are not conducive to the use of septic systems. The soils are not very permeable and therefore not particularly suitable for the use of conventional septic systems. Seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels range from 5 to 12 feet below ground surface in the downtown area during the wet season, and 25 to 30 feet during dry periods. As a result, septic system effluent is being discharged directly above the groundwater table or in some cases, directly into the groundwater. In addition many of the parcels in the township are small. Nearly two-thirds of the lots are less than one-half acre in size with many of these parcels comprising less than one-quarter acre making the installation of an adequate sized septic system very difficult.

Los Olivos is underlain by the Santa Ynez Uplands Groundwater Basin which is used extensively as a source of agricultural and domestic water. This basin has been identified by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as one of three groundwater basins in Santa Barbara County experiencing increases in nitrate concentrations. The high density of onsite wastewater treatment systems in an area of poor site conditions are likely contributors to the degradation of groundwater.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has for many years recommended that a wastewater management plan be developed for Los Olivos to mitigate and control the impacts of septic systems on the surface and ground water resources of the area. In order to better protect the health and safety of the community, Environmental Health Services initiated the development of a comprehensive wastewater management plan in February 2009, completing the first phase in October, 2010.

The first phase of the Los Olivos Waste Water Management Plan (LOWWMP) focuses on the commercial or downtown core of the township. The activities of the property owners in this area are severely constrained by the wastewater flow restrictions placed on each lot by the RWQCB and the County. The business/property owners recognize that these restrictions are negatively impacting their business and property potential and therefore have expressed a willingness to explore installing wastewater infrastructure to address their wastewater disposal problems.

In its analysis, the LOWWMP concluded that given the conditions of the area and the sentiment of the residents, the most viable options for the downtown core involved a communal wastewater treatment system utilizing a communal disposal field, surface irrigation or treating effluent to a level that allows discharge to surface water. While the LOWWMP discussed communal collection, treatment and disposal, it did so in a general manner. A preliminary engineering report is needed to analyze such a project in detail to determine its feasibility.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Acceptance of this agreement does not affect mandates or service levels.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Acceptance and execution of this agreement with AECOM in the amount of \$179,700 will allow for the preparation of a preliminary engineering report for wastewater collection and treatment facilities in the Township of Los Olivos. This project is included in the Public Health Department's FY 2011-12 recommended budget. Funds from the State Water Resources Control Board are designated and available to fund the work in this contract. There is no projected use of General Fund dollars for this project.

**Staffing Impacts:**

The approval of this recommendation will neither decrease nor increase current Environmental Health Services staff levels.

**Special Instructions:**

Return one (1) executed original agreement and one Minute Order to the Public Health Department, Contracts Unit, Attn Rose Davis.

**Attachments:**

Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

**Authored by:**

David Brummond, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist