

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 4/9/02
Department Name: Planning & Development, Energy
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: 4/16/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Patton, Director
Planning and Development

STAFF CONTACT: Alice McCurdy, Energy Specialist
Energy Division

SUBJECT: Disposition of Contract with Arthur D. Little, Inc. (BC-01-089) for Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Tranquillon Ridge Project

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Development to terminate the contract with Arthur D. Little, Inc. for the preparation of the Tranquillon Ridge EIR (Board contract number BC-01-089), or to accept the assignment of such to another environmental services contractor of the Director's choice.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

Goal No. 5 – A high quality of life for all residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Arthur D. Little, Inc. (ADL) has been under contract with the County since November 2000 for the preparation of an environmental impact report on the Tranquillon Ridge Project. The County recently learned that ADL has undergone federal bankruptcy proceedings and that its assets are being reorganized and sold. The local environmental services branch is being disbanded.

ADL's breakup threatens the continuity of service and timely completion of work on the environmental impact report. Therefore, staff is asking the Board for flexible authority to either terminate the contract or accept an assignment to another firm of the Director's choice. The ultimate choice will be made in the next week or so, as further information becomes available.

The contract was let in November 2000, at a not to exceed price of \$417,473 and amended one year later for an additional \$127,991, to reflect changes in the project description and alternatives. A balance of \$111,600 remains in the trust account.

ADL's work has been guided by a Joint Review Panel, comprised of the Energy Division, California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and the Air Pollution Control District. A draft environmental impact report has been prepared and two hearings were recently held in Lompoc to take public comments on its adequacy. The preparation of the final environmental impact report, including responses to comments, awaits the disposition of this matter. Planning Commission hearings are scheduled for June and July.

Mandates and Service Levels: There are no changes in mandates or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: There is no fiscal impact to the County. All costs will be borne by the applicant.

Special Instructions: Please forward a copy of the minute order to the Energy Division.

Concurrence: County Counsel