



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: October 19, 2010  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**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 Baron Ranch Restoration Phase II Implementation**

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**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 (Attachment A) with the consulting firm of Ecological Conservation and Management, Inc. (ECM) for the implementation of Phase II of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan and maintenance and monitoring of Phase I and Phase II areas in the amount of \$368,702.50, which is part of the required mitigation program for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project.
- B. Authorize a 10% contingency in the amount \$36,870.00 to ECM to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the proposal.

**Summary Text:**

In May 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. The reconfiguration allows for better sediment management, reduces grading and grading-related impacts, improves landfill design, provides for a significant cost savings as compared to the approved configuration, and does not change the landfill's permitted disposal capacity. The redesign extends landfill development across two man-made in-channel sedimentation basins which are designated as wetlands and waters of the U.S. and other portions of Pila Creek and adjacent upland areas affecting several sensitive native habitat types, affecting the federally listed California red legged frog and affecting areas/resources under the regulatory jurisdiction of 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 meet mitigation requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and other regulatory permit requirements from the agencies listed above, RRWMD included as a part of its project description and analyzed in the EIR prepared for the project, compensatory habitat restoration activities on Baron Ranch (Baron Ranch Restoration Plan).

Implementation of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project is currently in progress including modifications to Pila Creek to accommodate the reconfigured waste footprint. Restoration activities at the Baron Ranch are generally being timed to coincide with habitat removal in Pila Creek. In total, restoration is proposed to occur in six installation phases. The first phase 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. The restoration work was completed by Ecosystems Restoration Associates (also known as P&D Consultants a Division of AECOM); the consulting firm that prepared the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan. Phase II of the restoration (which is the subject of this Board Letter) involves the restoration of 9 acres of riparian forest adjacent to a 2,300 foot section of Arroyo Quemado and approximately 1 acre of chaparral restoration (~13,000 plants). Four additional phases of restoration are proposed and will be contracted separately. In order to receive sign off on the mitigation program from the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, restoration areas must meet performance standards (e.g., vegetation height, coverage, and composition) set forth in the Restoration Plan and in the regulatory permits. Sign off typically involves a 5-year period of monitoring and maintenance.

The proposed contract with ECM is for implementation (site preparation and plant and irrigation installation), maintenance and monitoring of the Phase II restoration and maintenance and monitoring of Phase I area for a contract period extending from approximately November 2010 to December 2012. RRWMD solicited proposals from fifteen native plant Restoration Consultants. Proposals were received from seven firms. The proposals were reviewed by a committee comprised of staff from RRWMD and Flood Control. Proposals were reviewed based on approach, understanding of the project goals and constraints, experience completing similar projects, references and cost. After the initial review of all of the proposals, three firms were invited to follow up interviews. After careful review and consideration of all of the proposals and after completion of the interviews ECM was determined to be the most qualified firm. ECM's proposed time and materials not-to-exceed cost is \$368,702.50. In addition, the Board Letter includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$36,870.00, which could be authorized by RRWMD to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the proposal.

**Background:**

The Baron Ranch is a 1,083 acre ranch owned by RRWMD situated immediately adjacent to the Tajiguas Landfill on the eastern boundary approximately 25 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara, north of U.S. Highway 101 along the Gaviota Coast area of Santa Barbara County. The property was purchased to provide a buffer between the landfill and adjacent private holdings, to prevent future subdivision and residential development adjacent to the Tajiguas Landfill, to allow flexibility for existing and future solid waste operations, provide options for mitigation, and to provide possible future public access for community uses. Arroyo Quemado and its tributaries traverse the Baron Ranch and support 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 would permanently impact approximately 11.8 acres (and may temporarily impact 0.14 acres) of the Cañada de la Pila watershed (Pila Creek) impacting sensitive habitats 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. These impacts include filling two man-made in-channel sedimentation basins occupied by the federally threatened California red-legged frog within Pila Creek. To comply with regulatory agency permits and CEQA, restoration of 38 acres<sup>1</sup> of native habitats is required. An additional 14 acres of upland habitats (coast live oak woodland and Venturan coastal sage scrub) would also be restored on Baron Ranch to mitigate impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2002. Because Tajiguas is an operational landfill and on-site opportunities to replace habitats affected by the Reconfiguration Project are limited and replacement of some habitat types onsite would not be allowed (due to rooting depth and/or irrigation requirements), off-site mitigation is occurring at Baron Ranch.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for this contract is included in the FY 2010/11 Budget and 2011/12 Projected Budget of the Resource Recovery & Waste Mgt. Enterprise Fund.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Enterprise Fund	\$ 228,507.00	\$ 177,065.50	\$ 405,572.50
Total	\$ 228,507.00	\$ 177,065.50	\$ 405,572.50

**Narrative:**

Costs associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Projects are not considered a part of RRWMD's ongoing engineering support to operations, as funded through tipping fees. The Reconfiguration and Restoration project costs have been incorporated into the Division's long term financial plan and funding will draw from RRWMD's enterprise fund retained earnings balance. The immediate fiscal impact to the fund's retained earnings is anticipated to be offset by future savings associated with the reduced capital costs of the Tajiguas Phased Liner projects.

**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:**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

1. Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

**Authored by:**

Joddi Leipner, Public Works x3614

**cc:** Project File