



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:** 5/2/2023  
**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 D. McGolpin, P.E., Director, (805) 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Martin Wilder, P.E., Interim Deputy Director, (805) 882-3605

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Agromin Corporation for Compost Hauling and Marketing -  
Third Supervisorial District

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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 authorize the Chair to execute an agreement for services of independent contractor with Agromin Corporation (a tri-county vendor) to haul and market compost material from the Tajiguas ReSource Center compost management unit for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and
- b) Determine that pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15162 no substantial changes are proposed, and no new information of substantial importance has come to light regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore this action is within the scope of the project covered by the prior environmental review, the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) SCH #2012041068 and Subsequent EIR Revision Letter and Errata dated May 27, 2016 certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016 and Final Subsequent EIR Addendum dated August 11, 2017 (revised October 26, 2017) considered by the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 2017, and no subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration shall be prepared for this action.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to consider approval of an agreement with Agromin Corporation to haul material from the Tajiguas ReSource Center compost management unit for marketing or for further processing and marketing at facilities owned by Agromin Corporation through December 31, 2023.

**Background:**

The County of Santa Barbara owns and operates the Tajiguas municipal landfill. As a means to divert waste in order to preserve the life of the landfill as well as in consideration of other environmental factors such as compliance with SB 1383, the County contracted with a third party, MSB Investors, to construct several facilities including a materials recycling facility (MRF), a dry fermentation anaerobic digester facility (ADF), and a composting management unit (CMU) that composts organics recovered from the region's municipal solid waste as well as source separated food waste. These facilities have been in service since fall of 2021, but are not yet fully commissioned. During this startup period, the MRF has proven its ability to capture approximately 25% of all organics, which is subsequently processed at the ADF and CMU. During this commissioning period, it has been determined that there is currently a backlog of composted material. MSB Investors continues to modify its operations of the ADF and CMU but until the facilities have reached stabilized operations, there is a need to haul and market off site up to 150 tons per day of composted material. In order to prevent a surplus of composted material from collecting on the CMU deck, Agromin Corporation will haul composted material to market or to its Limoneira facility in Ventura County for further processing and blending. Agromin Corporation is experienced in hauling and processing compost and has been performing this work on a smaller scale since the startup of the facility.

A Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State Clearinghouse #2012041068, Subsequent EIR Revision Letter and Errata dated May 27, 2016 certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016 and Final Subsequent EIR Addendum dated August 11, 2017 (revised October 26, 2017) were prepared to analyze the impacts of construction and operation of the ReSource Center including impacts associated with transporting commodities to market. This action is proposed as a temporary measure to help reduce odors and allow for startup stabilization of ADF and CMU processes until such time that the processing and throughput of composted material equals the rate of production through fine screening. The prior CEQA analysis assumed that up to 22 trucks per day would transport recyclables and compost to off site markets/locations using 20+ ton CNG tractor trailers. The proposed contract would allow for temporary transfer of approximately 8 trucks per day of compost using diesel tractor trailers to reduce the backlog of accumulated compost material and assist with odor reduction. Currently, there are significantly fewer recyclable truck trips per day than originally anticipated (approximately 4) and between 4 and 8 trucks per day for hauling compost. Because, the total of trips leaving the ReSource Center facilities would be less than analyzed and the transport of product during the interim period of ADF/CMU operation startup would be temporary, it would not result in a substantial change to the project or result in new or substantially different environmental effects and is therefore within the scope of the prior CEQA review. Modifications to the processing of compost are being evaluated in order to address throughput, improve compost quality, and address odor control, which would be assessed for conformance with the prior CEQA review.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The hauling of composted material is anticipated to primarily consist of the hauling of surplus rough screened material identified as Powerscreen 2" Unders Material in the proposal at a cost of \$69 per ton. Combined with certain amounts of residual waste and D-Table 3/8" Finished Material as may be needed, an estimated monthly cost is \$150,000. Therefore, the recommended contract amount is for a not to exceed figure of \$1,000,000 through December 31, 2023. Funds are budgeted in Enterprise Fund 1930.

**Special Instructions:**

Retain the original agreement for Clerk of the Board records and return two (2) original agreements along with a certified minute order to the Public Works Department office at 130 East Victoria Street, Suite 100, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; attention Martin Wilder.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Agreement (3 originals)

**Authored by:**

Martin Wilder, P.E., (805) 803-8755

**Copy:**

File