



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: December 3, 2024
Placement: Administrative
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, (805) 568-3010
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Interim Deputy Director, (805) 882-3605
Martin Wilder, P.E., Laguna County Sanitation District Manager, (805) 882-3605
SUBJECT: **Two-year Operational Consulting & Assistance Contract with Eggersmann North America Inc., for the Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the Tajiguas ReSource Center – Third Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a two-year agreement for services of independent contractor Eggersmann North America Inc. (Eggersmann), not a local vendor, to assist and consult with the operations of the Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the Tajiguas ReSource Center not to exceed \$1,866,668.24; and
- b) Determine that pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162 no substantial changes are proposed to the project, no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, and no new information of substantial importance has come to light regarding the environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore approving a two-year

contract for consulting and assistance with the Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the ReSource Center is within the scope of the project covered by the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (12EIR-00000-000020) SCH #2012041068 and Subsequent EIR Revision Letter and Errata dated May 27, 2016 certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016, Final Subsequent EIR Addendum dated August 11, 2017 (revised October 26, 2017) considered by the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 2017, second Addendum dated August 15, 2023 considered by the Board on October 3, 2023 and November 7, 2023, and the third Addendum dated August 9, 2024 considered by the Board on September 10, 2024. Therefore, no subsequent Environmental Impact Reports or Negative Declarations shall be prepared for this action.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to authorize the Chair to execute a two-year agreement for services of independent contractor Eggersmann North America Inc., not a local vendor, to consult and assist with the operations of the Anaerobic Digestion Facility (ADF) at the Tajiguas ReSource Center not to exceed \$1,866,668.24 (Attachment A). This agreement includes one full time Eggersmann employee to be onsite during the length of this contract as well as site visits from four other Eggersmann employees up to four times per year. Additionally, this contract includes virtual support from Eggersmann staff residing in Germany.

Discussion:

Eggersmann (formerly known as Bekon) was the designer of the ADF as well as the primary technology supplier. The original operations plan for the management of this facility included an Eggersmann employee working onsite for the first three years of operation. This plan was abandoned by the prior operator due to construction delays and the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the County has taken over operation of this facility in January 2024, County staff have determined the need for greater support from Eggersmann to ensure its future operational success.

Background:

The Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department operates an ADF at the Tajiguas ReSource Center that processes organic material collected from the commercial sector as well as extracted from municipal solid waste from the communities of the South Coast, the Santa Ynez Valley and the Cuyama Valley, as well as the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Solvang, and Buellton. The ADF uses this material to generate green energy that is sold onto the grid via Southern California Edison and digestate that is eventually converted into compost used on local farms.

County staff took full control over the operations of the ReSource Center ADF after the agreement with the prior operator was terminated. In 2024, County staff has successfully addressed odor complaints and reduced odors, improved ADF and composting operations, and performed deferred maintenance. Staff has determined that for the long-term success of the ADF, more involvement from the technology provider and facility designer is required. This will be achieved by having Eggersmann staff onsite on both daily and intermittent capacity to consult and assist County staff to perfect digester and composting operations. This is consistent with the original implementation plan for the

ADF and Compost Management Unit (CMU), which was to have Eggersmann onsite for the first three years of operation. However, this plan was abandoned by the previous facility operator due to construction delays and the Covid-19 pandemic.

To date, the ADF has not yet completed all acceptance testing and currently, the ADF is operating with one quarter of the capacity non-functional. County staff has scheduled full operations and all acceptance testing to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year. To do this, and have the facility operating efficiently, staff has determined that the direct assistance and management of key aspects of the facility by Eggersmann is required.

The attached Contract (Attachment A) with Eggersmann includes:

1. A plant manager onsite for a period of two years.
2. Four visits per year by additional Eggersmann staff based in Europe.
3. Virtual assistance from a dedicated “support team” of Eggersmann staff that consists of a project leader and engineers as required.

The responsibilities of Eggersmann staff will include facility operation and maintenance as well as the training of County staff for an eventual full County staffed operation.

Therefore, staff requests that the Board approve and authorize the Chair to execute a two-year agreement for \$1,866,668.24 with Eggersmann North America, Inc. to assist and consult with the operations of the ADF at the ReSource Center. Retaining Eggersmann to assist with operation of the ADF to improve its performance is within the scope of the Tajiguas ReSource Center project analyzed in the prior CEQA documents (Final Subsequent EIR (12EIR-00000-00002), Addendums and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 determinations) and therefore pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, no further environmental review is required for the proposed contract. amendment. The Final Subsequent EIR and Addendums can be found at <https://www.countyofsb.org/1165/Environmental-Documents>.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The two-year contract with Eggersmann, North America Inc. will cost \$455,284.94 in fiscal year 2024-2025, and \$933,334.12 in fiscal year 2025-2026, and the remaining balance occurring in the first half of fiscal year 2026-2027, which will be funded from the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund 1930, Program 1860, Line-Item Account 7460. There is no impact to the General Fund.

| Funding Source | Current FY Cost | Fiscal Year 25/26 | Fiscal Year 26/27 | Total Project Cost |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| General Fund | | | | |
| State | | | | |
| Federal | | | | |
| Fees | | | | |
| RRWMD Ent. Fund | \$455,284.94 | \$933,334.12 | \$478,049.18 | \$1,866,668.24 |
| Total | \$455,284.94 | \$933,334.12 | \$478,049.18 | \$1,866,668.24 |

Contract Risk, Renewals, and Performance Outcome:

This agreement is for services related to the operation and maintenance of a solid waste disposal system and is therefore not a public project. As such bidding is not required pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22002(d)(5) as it is work performed to keep, operate, and maintain publicly owned water, power, or waste disposal systems, including, but not limited to, dams, reservoirs, powerplants, and electrical transmission lines of 230,000 volts and higher. The contractor is the original designer of the facility and exclusive purveyor of the primary technology used at the facility and is the most qualified party to provide these services.

The contract will be pursuant to the County’s standard terms and conditions attached to the Eggersmann North America Inc. proposal (Attachment A).

As noted in the attached contract, the scope of work will focus on improving the performance of the ADF in the following areas:

1. Gas production
2. Compost Production
3. Mechanical oversight
4. Spare parts inventory & control system
5. Staffing consulting
6. Training of staff

These performance outcomes are expected before the two-year contract expires.

Staffing Impacts:

There will be no staffing impacts with this action.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward a certified copy of the minute order to:

- Carlyle Johnston, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, ReSource Center Manager

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement with Eggersmann North America, Inc.

Subject: Two-year Operational Assistance & Consulting Contract with Eggersmann North America Inc., for the Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the Tajiguas ReSource Center – Third Supervisorial District, December 3, 2024

Date: December 3, 2024

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Authored by:

Carlyle Johnston, MPA, ReSource Center Manager, (805) 882-3617

cc:

Gloria Alvarez, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division Financial Manager