



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

Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
Agenda Date: June 9, 2026  
Placement: Administrative Agenda  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director  
Contact Info: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, P.E., Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Authority to Advertise for the ReSource Center Non-Organic Waste Recovery Project; Third Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to advertise and receive bids for the construction of the ReSource Center Non-Organic Waste Recovery Project;
- b) Determine that the above-recommended action is not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)[5], finding that the action consists of an administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Public Works Department is requesting Board authorization to advertise and receive bids for the ReSource Center Non-Organic Waste Recovery Project (Project). The proposed Project anticipates the procurement and installation of equipment at the ReSource Center Material Recovery Facility (MRF), located at 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, CA 93117 and is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2026. The proposed Project aims to increase the quality and quantity of organic waste processed at the Anaerobic Digestion Facility (ADF) by increasing the bulk density of organics waste leaving the MRF to a minimum of 800 pounds per cubic yard. The recovery of additional non-organic waste out of the

organic waste line (also referred to as incompatible material) will also improve the quality and quantity of biogas that is subsequently converted into energy at the ADF and improve the organic digestate that is later converted into compost at the Compost Management Unit (CMU).

**Discussion:**

Upgrades to the existing equipment at the MRF are needed to more effectively remove non-compatible materials (such as plastics and metals) from the organic waste stream, allowing for an increase in organic material extracted from household and commercial trash to be processed at the ReSource Center ADF and CMU. The current organic waste stream leaving the MRF has approximately 20% of incompatible material and a bulk density of 600 pounds per cubic yard of material. This level of incompatible material takes up physical space in the digesters that is needed for organic waste and the current bulk density restricts the amount of organic waste material that can be processed at the ADF.

Without upgrades to the equipment at the MRF, the ADF will continue to not process organic waste as originally permitted and designed and can inadvertently result in the burial of additional organic waste at the Tajiguas Landfill. In addition, the incompatible material consisting of smaller plastic containers, including those used for cosmetics, skin care, and hair care products, may contribute to elevated siloxane levels in biogas. Increased siloxane concentrations can lead to higher operational and maintenance costs for both the ADF and the combined heat and power engines that use biogas to generate electricity.

**Background:**

The Santa Barbara County, Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division owns the MRF located at 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, CA 93117 (CalRecycle SWIS ID: [42-AA-0015](#)). This MRF is operated and maintained by MarBorg Recovery, LP by County contract.

When municipal solid waste (MSW) is processed by the MRF, the primary extracted materials are organics which are then sent to the ADF for additional processing into energy (biogas) and subsequently the CMU for processing into compost. The MRF is able to recover more than 80% of total organics occurring in the MSW by weight according to California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 measurements and protocols. As a result, the MRF is designated a High Diversion Organic Waste Processing Facility by CalRecycle (linked here: [High Diversion Organic Waste Processing Facilities List](#)).

The Public Works Design-Build Request for Proposals (RFP) will include the purchase and installation of equipment at the MRF to further process the organics currently extracted by the MRF from the MSW stream. Performance requirements of this RFP include an increase in the bulk density of the organic material to a minimum of 800 pounds per cubic yard (without lowering the total extraction of organics from the MSW stream below 75% by weight), and a reduction of the total contamination to 10% or less.

Construction of the project will be competitively bid. The contract is anticipated to be awarded in late summer 2026, with construction commencing in late fall of 2026. The MRF is located outside of the coastal zone. All construction work for this project will be conducted within the existing MRF.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division Enterprise Fund 1931, Line-Item Account 8300 will provide 100% of the project funding. Final plans and specifications will be brought to your board for approval at a later date, along with a construction contract for your authorization. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2027.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a certified, stamped Minute Order approving this action to:

- Juliette Mudge, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, AOP II at [mudgej@countyofsb.org](mailto:mudgej@countyofsb.org).

**Authored by:**

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