



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: June 17, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, ext 3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, Public Works Deputy Director, ext 3603

**SUBJECT: Baron Ranch Management Contract
Third Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Approve and execute a contract with Ag Land Services (not a local vendor) for the management of Baron Ranch, for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$409,750.

Summary Text:

The County purchased the Baron Ranch in 1991 primarily to serve as a buffer to the Tajiguas Landfill, which is located in the canyon immediately west of the ranch. Baron is planted with approximately 100 acres of avocado and 7 acres of cherimoyas which are professionally managed under contract. This proposed contract contains provisions for all cultural costs related to the avocado and cherimoya including irrigation maintenance, parts and supervision, fertilization, pruning and thinning of the groves, weed and rodent control, erosion control measures, light road maintenance, and coordination and supervision of harvesting for a two-year period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010 at a cost not to exceed of \$409,750.

Background:

The County purchased the Baron Ranch in 1991 primarily to serve as a buffer to the Tajiguas Landfill, which is located in the canyon immediately west of the ranch. Baron is planted with approximately 100 acres of avocado and 7 acres of cherimoyas which are professionally managed under contract. Generally, the sale of the fruit harvested from the ranch offsets the cost to manage the property but does not cover the cost for debt service. In recent years, at the direction of your Board, staff evaluated the

possibility of selling Baron to avoid the continued financial loss due to the debt service. A project team consisting of representatives from several County departments evaluated a variety of options including the sale of particular legal parcels within the ranch. Based on the appraised value of the parcels as well as the constraints associated with parcel development, staff recommended that the sale of a portion of the property should not be pursued.

At this time, staff is considering a long-term management plan for the ranch and recommends continuing to contract with Ag Land Services for the management of the cultivated areas until a long-term plan is developed. Ag Land provides ranch management services to several ranches in Santa Barbara County and has managed the Baron Ranch for the last 10 years. A competitive RFP was issued in 1997 and 2002 and Ag Land was chosen both times due to their experience, cost control, and use of best management practices.

Performance Measure:

None

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The costs for the management of the avocado and cherimoya orchards at the Baron Ranch are included in the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division budget for FY 08/09.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

Please provide the minute order and a copy of the signed contract to Leslie Wells at the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of Public Works.

Attachments:

Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor Between the County of Santa Barbara and Ag Land Services.

Authored by: Leslie Wells, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, ext. 3611.