



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: July 10, 2012  
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 the Baron Ranch Restoration Phase IV and V Implementation-Third  
Supervisory District**

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**County Counsel 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 Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Contract No. BC-11-051 with the consulting firm of Ecological Conservation and Management, Inc. (ECM) (not a local vendor) for the implementation of Phase IV (5.8 acres) and V (6.9 acres) of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan and maintenance and monitoring of Phase I-V (~34 acres) through June 2015 in the amount of \$961,065 for a total contract not to exceed value of \$1,566,587 (which includes a contingency amount of \$36,870), which is part of the required mitigation program for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project, in the Gaviota Coast area, Third Supervisorial District.
- B. Find that pursuant to CEQA 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 the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore the contract to implement Phase IV and V of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan is within the scope of the project covered by the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (08EIR-00000-00007, State Clearinghouse No. 20080210520) certified by the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2009.

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**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Summary Text:**

In May 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. The landfill reconfiguration impacts federal and state wetlands, other native habitats and the federally threatened California red-legged frog. As mitigation for the landfill reconfiguration project, Resource Recovery and Waste Management (RRWMD) is required to restore native habitats on the county-owned Baron Ranch. Phase IV restoration is planned to begin in fall 2012 and Phase V in fall 2013.

Phase I 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. Phase II involved the restoration of 9 acres of riparian forest along Arroyo Quemado. After a professional services request for proposals process, work on Phase II was awarded to ECM in October 2010. ECM completed the riparian forest installation in fall 2010/winter 2011 and is currently maintaining and monitoring the restoration areas. A contract amendment was approved on September 20, 2011 for ECM to complete the Phase III restoration which includes 8 additional acres of riparian forest along Arroyo Quemado north of the Phase II area. Also included in Phase II was restoration of 0.9 acres of chaparral near the Phase I freshwater marsh restoration area. RRWMD also subsequently approved the use of contract contingency funds to include 1.7 acres of southwest willow scrub restoration along a tributary to Arroyo Quemado in the Phase III work effort. The Phase III installation work commenced in November 2011 and is in the process of being completed. In total approximately 20,000 native plants have been installed on approximately 20 acres.

RRWMD is recommending that the Board approve a second amendment to ECM's existing contract to implement the Phase IV and V restorations and maintain and monitor all of the restored areas (Phase I-IV) through June 2015. Phase IV consists of installation of 5.8 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat south of the tributary restored as a part of the Phase III restoration. Phase V consists of 0.4 acres of coastal sage scrub, 4.8 acres of southwest willow scrub and 1.7 acres of oak woodland restoration on two additional tributaries to Arroyo Quemado. A contract amendment is recommended because: 1) Phase IV and V restoration is similar in scope to the Phase II and III restoration completed by ECM; 2) ECM has demonstrated good success in the Phase II and III areas; 3) ECM will already be on site through December 2013 to maintain and monitor all of the restored areas; and 4) ECM has a significant working knowledge of the ranch and ranch infrastructure and has worked closely with RRWMD and Baron Ranch staff to complete the required mitigation while minimizing impacts to the ongoing agricultural activities which provide revenue to the Division. Therefore, continuing to contract with ECM would reduce the cost and implementation inefficiencies involved in bringing a new restoration contractor on site. ECM is proposing to continue to use its 2009 labor rates to help lower project costs, would collect and grow plants for Phase V onsite (reducing costs associated with obtaining container plants from local nurseries) and while ECM is not a local vendor, the company employs local workers for the installation and maintenance activities. The Phase I and II restoration areas have been inspected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and both agencies are pleased by the progress and success of the restoration activities to date.

ECM's proposed cost is for the Phase IV and V and for continued monitoring and maintenance of all of the phases (~34 acres) is \$961,065 for a total not to exceed cost of \$1,566,587 (which includes a

contingency amount of \$36,870). The previously approved contingency in the amount of \$36,870 has been utilized as a part of the Phase III restoration for work beyond the original scope of the proposal and would not be restored.

**Background:**

The county-owned Baron Ranch is a 1,083 acre ranch located immediately east of the Tajiguas Landfill approximately 25 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara along the Gaviota Coast. The property was purchased to provide a buffer between the landfill and adjacent private holdings, to prevent future subdivision/residential development next to the landfill, to allow flexibility for solid waste operations, provide options for mitigation, and to provide possible future public recreational access. Arroyo Quemado which runs north-south through the Baron Ranch supports a breeding population of California red-legged frogs. Approximately 97 acres of the property are currently developed with avocado and cherimoya orchards. In December 2010, a 6 mile loop public hiking trail was opened on the Ranch. Restoration opportunities have largely been identified and are occurring adjacent to Arroyo Quemado in abandoned and active orchard areas.

The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and the Baron Ranch Restoration Project were analyzed in 08EIR-00000-00007 (available for review at <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwrrwm.aspx?id=3258>) certified by the Board on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project will permanently impact ~11.8 acres of Pila Creek including sensitive habitats (wetlands) and sensitive species (California red-legged frog) 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. To comply with regulatory agency permits and CEQA, restoration of 38 acres of native habitats and placement of approximately 30 acres is a conservation easement is required<sup>1</sup>. An additional 14 acres of upland habitats (coast live oak woodland and Venturan coastal sage scrub) will also be restored on Baron Ranch to mitigate impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project approved by the Board in 2002.

The Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project is currently in progress. Waste placement in the reconfigured area began in September 2011 and the Phase 3A liner system is currently being installed to allow additional waste placement in the reconfigured area. In total, restoration is proposed to occur in approximately seven installation phases and each phase requires approximately 5 years of maintenance and monitoring after the initial installation. As noted previously, three phases of installation have been completed and the fourth and fifth phases are the subject of this Board letter. RRWMD is investigating implementation options for the remaining phases, maintenance and monitoring options for the previously restored areas after June 2015, and is coordinating/combining management of the restoration areas with management of the ranch agricultural activities.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Phases I through III costs of this contract, which occurred in prior fiscal years, amounted to \$605,522.00 including contingency. Funding for Phases IV and V will be budgeted over the next three fiscal years. \$323,250 is budgeted in FY 2012/13, \$394,550 is budgeted in FY 2013/14 and the remaining \$243,265

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<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.

will be budgeted in FY 2014/15 of the Resource Recovery & Waste Mgt. Enterprise Fund. Total one time project costs for this contract, including contingency, will be \$1,566,587.00.

**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	\$ -	\$ 961,065.00	\$ 961,065.00
Total	\$ -	\$ 961,065.00	\$ 961,065.00

**Narrative:**

Costs associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Projects have been incorporated into the Division's long term financial plan. Phases IV and V of this contract revision request have been incorporated in the Resource Recovery & Waste Mgt. Enterprise Fund two year budget in Professional Services Line Item 7460.

**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:**

1. Photos of the Phase II Restoration Areas
2. Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (Board Contract No. BC-11-051)

**Authored by:**

Joddi Leipner, Public Works x3614

**cc:** Project File

**ATTACHMENT 1 – SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



Phase II Restoration Area – East side Arroyo Quemado Creek (December 8, 2010)



Phase II Restoration Area – East side of Arroyo Quemado (June 19, 2012)



Phase II Restoration – West side of Arroyo Quemado (January 6, 2011)



Phase II Restoration – West side of Arroyo Quemado Creek (June 19, 2012)



Phase III Restoration – East Side of Arroyo Quemado (December 20, 2011)



Phase III Restoration – East Side of Arroyo Quemado (June 19, 2012)



Phase III Restoration – South side of Drainage B, Arroyo Quemado Tributary (December 20, 2011)



Phase III Restoration – South side of Drainage B, Arroyo Quemado Tributary (June 19, 2012)