



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 23, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, P.E. Director x 3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mark Schleich, P.E. Deputy Director x 3605
SUBJECT: Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project –
Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration (Coast Live Oak Woodland and
Chaparral) Implementation (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:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize a two-year Professional Services Contract with the consulting firm of Ecological Conservation and Management, Inc., (ECM) (not a local vendor) for the plant installation, maintenance and monitoring of Phase A (Coast Live Oak Woodland, 10.8 acres) and Phase B (Chaparral - 6.2 acres) of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan, maintenance of prior restoration phases (IV and V) and monitoring and reporting through June 2017 (~50 acres) in the amount of \$685,560. The restoration is a part of the required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and regulatory permit mitigation program for the Tajiguas Landfill in the Gaviota Coast area, Third Supervisorial District;
- B. Authorize the Director of Public Works or designee to approve changes or additions to the professional services being performed under the professional service contract with ECM in an amount of not to exceed \$20,000 for a total project authorization of \$705,560; and
- C. After considering the September 25, 2014 Addendum together with the previously certified Tajiguas Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (08EIR-00000-00007, State Clearinghouse No. 20080210520) and the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project (01-EIR-05, State Clearinghouse No. 98041003), determine that no subsequent

Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration shall be prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.

Summary Text:

The Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) has CEQA mitigation and regulatory permit compliance responsibilities for biological impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Tajiguas Landfill. To satisfy these requirements, RRWMD is restoring native habitats on the County-owned Baron Ranch. To date, 32 acres of freshwater marsh, riparian forest, willow scrub, and coastal sage scrub habitat have been successfully restored at the Baron Ranch in five phases. A total of 17 acres (9,500 container plants) of additional upland habitat restoration (Phase A Coast Live Oak Woodland, 10.8 acres and Phase B Chaparral 6.2 acres) is proposed on the Baron Ranch to partially comply with the landfill’s mitigation requirements. Prior phases of the restoration have been completed by (ECM) under contract to the County. The restoration is included as part of the permit conditions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The restoration areas have been inspected by these agencies, and based on the monitoring conducted for the annual compliance reports, the areas are meeting or exceeding the required performance standards.

RRWMD issued a request for proposal to twelve biological/restoration consulting firms to implement the final phases of the restoration project and received proposals from three firms. Based on review of these proposals, RRWMD is recommending that the Board approve a contract with ECM, as the most qualified consultant, on the basis of demonstrated competence and on the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of service required, in the amount of \$685,560 and an additional contingency \$20,000 to complete implementation (plant installation, maintenance and monitoring) of the final two phases of restoration, maintenance of Phase IV and V and monitoring and reporting of prior phases for the period from July 2015 to June 2017.

Background:

In 2002, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project which impacted oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. In May 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project (a modification to the expansion project). The landfill reconfiguration impacted federal and state wetlands, oak woodland, riparian, coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats and the federally threatened California red-legged frog. To partially comply with CEQA mitigation requirements¹ for the expansion project and to comply with regulatory agency permits and CEQA mitigation requirements for the reconfiguration project, restoration of ~50 acres of native habitats and placement of approximately 30 acres of the restored areas in a conservation easement is required. Restoration activities are taking place on the County-owned Baron Ranch. The 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. In December 2010, a 6-mile loop public trail was opened on the Ranch.

¹ Revegetation of the landfill cover is primarily proposed to mitigate for the habitat impacts of the 2002 landfill expansion project; however, certain habitats (e.g., coast live oak woodland) cannot be restored on the landfill cover due to the potential rooting depths of the plants which could impact the landfill’s protective cover and liner system. Therefore, ~10.8 acres of coast live oak woodland are proposed to be restored on Baron Ranch to mitigate impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project

RRWMD is recommending that the Board approve a contract with ECM to complete the Phase A and B restoration implementation (planting) and the restoration maintenance and monitoring. ECM has demonstrated competence and has the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of service required and has been selected as the most qualified consultant because: 1) Phase A and B restoration is similar in scope to prior restoration phases completed by ECM at the Baron Ranch and ECM’s proposal best meets the requirements of the request for proposals; 2) ECM has demonstrated excellent success in the prior restoration efforts at Baron Ranch; 3) ECM has achieved good working relations with the regulatory agencies involved with the project; 4) ECM will already be on site through June 2015 to maintain and monitor all of the existing restored areas; 5) ECM will be able to provide other biological services to complete the restoration project including nesting bird surveys and California red-legged frog surveys, and 6) ECM has a significant working knowledge of the ranch and ranch infrastructure. ECM has also 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, RRWMD believes contracting with ECM would reduce the implementation inefficiencies involved in bringing a new restoration consultant on site and increase the potential for successful completion of the RRWMD’s mitigation requirements. While ECM is not a local vendor, the company employs local workers for the installation and maintenance activities.

The Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project was analyzed in 01-EIR-05 certified by the Board on August 13, 2002 and the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and the Baron Ranch Restoration Project was analyzed in 08EIR-00000-00007 certified by the Board on May 5, 2009 (both available for review at <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwrrwm.aspx?id=3258>). The overall project, including a proposed change to the location of the chaparral restoration area, has been determined to be within the scope of the prior CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. Only minor technical changes or additions are necessary as identified in Attachment 2 and none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Enterprise Fund	\$ 511,546.00	\$ 194,014.00	\$ 705,560.00
Total	\$ 511,546.00	\$ 194,014.00	\$ 705,560.00

Narrative:

Contract expenses will span two fiscal years. The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division enterprise fund has a current FY 2015/16 budget of \$860,000 and a projected FY 2016/17 budget of \$300,000 in Line Item Acct. 7460 Professional Services for anticipated expenses related to the Tajiguas

Subject: Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project – Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration (Coast Live Oak Woodland and Chaparral) Implementation (Third Supervisorial District)

Agenda Date: June 23, 2015

Page 4 of 4

Landfill Reconfiguration Project. The RRWMD long term financial forecast model and landfill tipping fees have been structured to accommodate the projected costs associated with this project.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

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. Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor
2. CEQA Addendum
3. Baron Ranch Restoration Photographs

Authored by:

Joddi Leipner, Public Works x3614

Subject: Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project – Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration (Coast Live Oak Woodland and Chaparral) Implementation (Third Supervisorial District)

Agenda Date: June 23, 2015

Page 5 of 4

Attachment 1
Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

Subject: Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project – Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration (Coast Live Oak Woodland and Chaparral) Implementation (Third Supervisorial District)

Agenda Date: June 23, 2015

Page 6 of 4

Attachment 2
CEQA Addendum

Subject: Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project – Contract for the Baron Ranch Restoration (Coast Live Oak Woodland and Chaparral) Implementation (Third Supervisorial District)
Agenda Date: June 23, 2015
Page 7 of 4

Attachment 3
Baron Ranch Restoration Photographs