



**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 19, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Director, ext. 3010
Contact Info: Mark A. Schleich, P.E., Deputy Director, ext. 3605

SUBJECT: Approvals and Authorizations Associated with the Tajiguas Landfill and Baron Ranch Trail and Master Plan; First, Second and Third Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the Resolution to establish a policy with respect to certain future landfilling activities at the Tajiguas Landfill and the use of the Baron Ranch property;
- b) Approve and authorize the Auditor Controller to pay full funding necessary to expeditiously complete the Baron Ranch Trail, up to \$130,000, including completion of the bridge and the Baron Ranch Trail project as authorized by 16CUP-00000-00029 and 16CDP-00000-00105, and no later than upon completion of the trail improvements and bridge installation, to open the trail to the public 7 days a week; and,
- c) Approve and authorize Public Works to spend up to \$100,000, to hire a consultant to prepare a comprehensive master plan for Baron Ranch in FY 2018/19 through a process involving public input and, as part of that master plan process, direct Public Works to primarily consider options for developing increased recreational opportunities and agricultural opportunities on Baron Ranch including revenue generating opportunities, and direct Public Works staff to return to the Board of Supervisors to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Master Plan.
- d) Determine that the above action (a) is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5) as the

recommended action is a general policy and an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment; determine that proposed action (b) is taken in furtherance of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements Project that was approved by the County Planning Commission on June 28, 2017, and that pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines section 15162, no substantial changes are proposed, and there are no substantial changes in circumstances or new information of substantial importance regarding significant impacts or feasibility of mitigation measures and alternatives, and therefore, this action is within the scope of the project covered by the mitigated negative declaration, No. 17NGD-00000-00007, SCH No. 2017021030, and no subsequent environmental document is required; and determine that proposed action (c) is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) and California Environmental Quality Act Guideline Section 15262 as a feasibility or planning study; and approve and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption on these bases.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to authorize adoption of the attached resolution, which would establish a policy with respect to certain future landfilling activities at the Tajiguas Landfill and the use of the Baron Ranch property. This item also would authorize the Auditor-Controller to pay up to \$130,000 in funding for the County's completion of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements project and authorize the Public Works Department to spend up to \$100,000 for completion of a Master Plan for the Baron Ranch property in FY 2018/2019. No later than upon completion of the Baron Ranch trail improvements and bridge, Community Services Department will open the trail to the public 7 days a week. These actions would allow the County to fulfill conditions of a Conditional Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release approved by your Board in the *Gaviota Coast Conservancy v. County of Santa Barbara* litigation.

Background:

Proposed action (a) is a resolution that establishes a policy stating that residual and solid waste burial activities at the Tajiguas Landfill will cease once the current permitted disposal capacity of 23,300,000 cubic yards is reached and the County will not seek an expansion of the disposal capacity of the Tajiguas Landfill other than for emergency debris. It also provides that the County will begin to seek landfill locations other than the Gaviota Coast when the Tajiguas Landfill has seven years of remaining disposal capacity.

Proposed action (b) relates to the Baron Ranch property, which is an approximately 1,000 acre property purchased by the County in 1991 adjacent to the Tajiguas Landfill. In 2010, the Board approved the construction and operation of a 6-mile trail contained within the Baron Ranch for public use Saturday – Monday from sunrise to sunset. The trail was developed in collaboration with the County Parks Division and the Santa Barbara Trails Council. In 2016, the Board approved the reconfiguration and expansion of the trail to connect to the ridge at East Camino Cielo. On June 28, 2017, the County Planning Commission approved the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements project and adopted a mitigated negative declaration ("MND"), No. 17NGD-00000-00007, SCH No. 2017021030.

The trail project is managed by the County Parks Division and is under design and anticipated to go out to bid in July 2018. The project budget for construction is \$465,000. To date, the Trails Council has

raised \$335,000 from community members, the County, the Sierra Club, and the UCSB Coastal Fund. Therefore, approximately \$130,000 is needed to complete the trail project.

If proposed action (b) is approved by the Board, the County would be authorized to pay up to \$130,000 to ensure expeditious completion of the trail project. The funding would either come from Community Services Department (CSD) if CSD is awarded a grant or from Public Works Resource Recovery would process a budget revision to transfer fund to Community Services Department. The completion of the trail will increase accessibility to the trail by the public to seven days a week and will expand the non-motorized trail use to include bicyclists, horseback riders, and others in an unsupervised setting. Per Santa Barbara County Code regulations, use is limited to 8 a.m. to sunset. Completion of this action will also enhance the user experience through the Arroyo Quemada riparian corridor, where the Public Works Department has been conducting a large-scale native plant restoration.

Proposed action (c) also involves the Baron Ranch property. When the County purchased the Baron Ranch, 100 of the 1,000 acres were being cultivated for avocados and cherimoyas. The orchard has become significantly less productive in recent years due to the age of the trees and the cessation of agricultural activities in areas contained within a 50-acre native plant restoration project. As such, active management of the orchard was completed in 2016. Approval of proposed action (c) would allow the Public Works Department to hire a consultant (and spend up to \$100,000) to prepare a Master Plan for the future uses of the Baron Ranch property.

CEQA Findings:

As stated in recommended action (d), proposed action (a) is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5). Proposed action (c) is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) and Section 15262. The attached proposed Notice of Exemption states the bases for those exemptions.

Proposed action (b) is an implementing action taken in furtherance of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements project that was approved by the County Planning Commission on June 28, 2017, and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15162 does not require any further environmental review. The potential environmental impacts of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements project were analyzed and disclosed in the MND and mitigation measures for these impacts were incorporated into the conditions of approval for the project. Proposed action (b) consists of funding for a portion of the approved project. No changes to the project, as approved on June 28, 2017, are proposed as part of this action. Therefore, impacts identified under the previously adopted MND would remain the same.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 sets forth the considerations for determining when a subsequent EIR or negative declaration must be prepared, as follows: (a) when substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (b) when substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken which will require major revisions to the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or (c) when new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative

declaration was adopted shows new or more severe impacts or different mitigation measures or alternatives.

The authority to pay up to \$130,000 towards completion of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements project does not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects. There are no changes to the approved project that would require revisions to the MND.

In addition, no substantial change has, or is anticipated to occur, with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken. No Class I (significant and unavoidable) impacts were identified in the MND. The MND identified mitigation measures designed to reduce impacts in the areas of Biological Resources, Fire Protection, and Noise. These measures would continue to be adequate for the project and currently existing site conditions. There are no project changes that would result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The mitigation measures would adequately address potential environmental impacts. No impacts previously found to be insignificant are now significant.

A detailed discussion of the identified impacts and mitigation measures designed to reduce impacts to less than significant is included in the MND, and in the original CEQA findings for the project (included as a part of Attachment A [Findings] to the June 28, 2017 Planning Commission Action Letter [link at Attachment B to this Board Agenda Letter]). The MND link is included as Attachment C to this staff report.

Finally, no new information of importance, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous MND was adopted, has become available. As discussed above, there have been no substantial changes to site conditions and no changes to the current project, as approved June 28, 2017, are proposed. In addition, all previously adopted mitigation measures would continue to be adequate to reduce Class II identified impacts to less than significant.

In summary, because none of the conditions in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 have occurred with respect to the project, no subsequent EIR or negative declaration is required for proposed action (b).

Performance Measure:

Specific recommendations in this Board Letter are contained in the Conditional Settlement Agreement.

Financial Impacts:

Budgeted: No

The RR&WMD recommended budget for FY 18/19 will have to be adjusted to include up to \$130,000 for the completion of the Baron Ranch trail and up to \$100,000 to hire a consultant to prepare a Master Plan for future uses of the Baron Ranch property. Funds will be reduced for other professional services to accommodate the \$230,000 of additional costs.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

This Agreement will not result in any new staffing impacts.

Special Instructions:

Please send an executed copy of the Resolution and a Minute Order to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, attn: Sheila de la Guerra. Following Board approval, Clerk of the Board to please post the Notice of Exemption and forward a stamped copy to the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division of the Public Works Department, Attn: Joddi Leipner.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution

Attachment B: Staff Report for Baron Ranch Trail Improvements

Attachment C: Draft Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Baron Ranch Trail Realignment; ND #17NGD-00000-00007

Attachment D: Notice of Exemption

Authored By:

Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division