



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 22, 2014

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Authorization Of El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant Emergency Biosolids Hauling And Final Use Expenditures

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve Emergency Purchase Order No. 31400306, in the total amount of \$100,000, for the emergency hauling, composting, and final use of El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant biosolids.

### DISCUSSION:

A byproduct of the City's wastewater treatment process is the nutrient rich organic solids called biosolids. Since May 2012, the City has contracted with Western Express, Inc., (Western Express) to haul this material for disposal at the Holloway Environmental landfill. On Friday, February 21, 2014, Holloway Environmental issued a 30-Day Notice of Termination to Western Express. This notice specified that biosolids from the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) contain too much moisture and are no longer suitable for disposal at Holloway Environmental's landfill in Kern County, California. Western Express attempted to resolve the issue since this landfill had been accepting El Estero biosolids with the same moisture content since May, 2012. On Friday, March 14, 2014, Western Express notified City staff that its attempt to resolve this issue with Holloway Environmental was unsuccessful.

City staff coordinated with Western Express to explore several short-term options for alternative biosolids hauling and end use. On Friday, March 21, 2014, staff contacted Liberty Composting and received approval to allow Western Express to haul El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant biosolids to Liberty Composting's site for compost processing and final use at \$30 per wet ton.

This Emergency Purchase Order will provide biosolids hauling, processing, and final use for approximately 2,500 tons of material over a 3-month time period. At the same time, City staff is issuing a Request for Proposal process for a new multi-year contract to provide for long-term hauling and beneficial use or disposal of El Estero biosolids.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There is sufficient appropriated funding in the Wastewater Fund to cover the biosolids emergency hauling disposal costs.

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca Bjork, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office