



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 15, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Purchase Order For Water Treatment Sludge Disposal

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Waive the formal bidding process, as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.080(k), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD) in the amount of \$200,000 for the disposal of up to 6,500 tons of water treatment sludge in Fiscal Year 2010;
- B. Authorize the City General Services Manager to renew the Purchase Order to the VRSD annually through Fiscal Year 2012, subject to Council approval of the annual Water Fund budget; and
- C. Authorize the City General Services Manager to execute an agreement with the VRSD for delivery of water treatment sludge to the Toland Road Landfill for a three-year period.

DISCUSSION:

The City's William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater) provides regional water treatment to the communities of Santa Barbara, Summerland, Montecito, and Carpinteria. Historically, sludge generated by Cater's treatment process has been disposed of by hauling it to a mining site on the Santa Ynez River, where it was mixed with soil to serve as fill for the river bed. The cost to the City was only for hauling the sludge to the site.

The Zaca Fire burned 60% of the watershed. As a result, the raw water has high levels of Total Organic Carbons (TOC), requiring that a significant amount of TOC-targeting chemicals be added during the treatment process to comply with federal drinking water regulations. This has increased Cater's sludge production approximately six-fold. Additionally, the post-Zaca Fire sludge contains contaminants that exceed the allowable levels for use as fill in the Santa Ynez river bed.

Cater staff have investigated surrounding landfill sites for the lowest disposal fees. Their investigation resulted in the findings listed below. The hauling costs are covered under an existing purchase order.

Landfill Site	Cost/Ton	Hauling Costs	*Total Cost/Trip
Toland Road Sanitary Landfill Santa Paula, CA	\$30.00	\$500.00	\$890.00
City of Santa Maria Landfill Santa Maria, CA	\$69.90	\$700.00	\$1,608.70
Tajiguas Landfill Santa Barbara County, CA	\$80.00	\$375.00	\$1,415.00

*Estimated 13 tons per truck load

When considering the cost per trip and per ton to dispose of the sludge, the Toland Road Landfill was found to be the most economical option. With staff's investigation of sludge disposal fees, it is in the City's best interest for Council to dispense with the formal bidding process and authorize a Purchase Order for the VRSD to dispose of Cater's sludge at the Toland Road Landfill. The recommended Purchase Order for \$200,000 will cover Cater's sludge disposal costs for Fiscal Year 2010. It is anticipated that Cater's elevated sludge production will persist for the coming few years; therefore, staff recommends that Council authorize renewing the Purchase Order annually through 2012, subject to Council approval of the annual Water Fund budget.

Staff recommends Council authorize an agreement with VRSD for delivery of water treatment sludge at the Toland Road Landfill. The agreement ensures the City's compliance with rules and regulations for delivering such materials at the Toland Road Landfill.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Sufficient funding is included in the 2010 Water Operating Budget to cover the cost for sludge disposal.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, P.E., Water System Manager/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office