



December 19, 2019

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

**RECEIVE AND FILE DISTRICT STAFF REPORT ON EMERGENCY WILDFIRE
RESPONSE AT THE CLOSED BAILARD AND TIERRA REJADA LANDFILLS**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File the report from District staff and consultants updating the Board on emergency response to wildfires at two closed landfills (Bailard and Tierra Rejada).

FISCAL IMPACT

Emergency expenditures to date at both landfills total approximately \$2 million. Emergency response and repairs were undertaken in accordance with emergency provisions in VRSD Purchasing Resolution 89-13. Additional mitigation measures to be undertaken at the Tierra Rejada Landfill and the commensurate cost still need to be finalized and coordinated with other responsible parties and shall be presented for Board consideration in a future meeting. Corresponding appropriations from reserves in the form of a budget amendment will also be presented to the Board for approval in a future meeting.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Two landfills for which the District performs post-closure maintenance and reporting suffered significant damages in two recent wildfires. The Olivas Fire of October 11, 2019 caused damages at the closed Bailard Landfill, and the Easy Fire of October 30, 2019 caused damages at the closed Tierra Rejada Landfill.

A. OLIVAS FIRE DAMAGES AT BAILARD LANDFILL

The Bailard Landfill, which is owned by VRSD, suffered damages to its gas collection system, flare and ground cover in the Olivas Fire. As soon as safe and practicable, District Operations Staff took swift and decisive action to repair important landfill gas collection system components. District Operations Staff also worked closely with state and local regulatory agencies to report, document and obtain regulatory relief for the

landfill while repairs were conducted. In order to help fund the remediation work from this unexpected fire event, VRSD is pursuing potential funding from insurance. Total expenditures on the Bailard Landfill post-Olivas Fire to date are approximately \$1.3 million.

B. EASY FIRE DAMAGES AT THE TIERRA REJADA LANDFILL

1. Historical Operational Context

VRSD performs post-closure maintenance and reporting for the Tierra Rejada Landfill on behalf of the Tierra Rejada Consortium (Consortium) through an agreement with the four members of the Consortium: The Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District, the City of Simi Valley, the County of Ventura, and VRSD. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board identified these four parties as being responsible for the cleanup and maintenance of the site in a 1991 Order of Abatement. Since that time, VRSD has been tasked with being primarily responsible for conducting landfill monitoring and maintenance work although costs are shared equally by the Consortium. The underlying property of this landfill is owned by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District and the City of Simi Valley.

2. Overview of Easy Fire Damages & Remediation Work

There was damage to the gas collection system, the flare, and the slope vegetation (necessary for stability). The gas collection system repairs, the flare, and the initial fire response is almost complete now. The extent and amount of landfill grading to prevent exposure of existing waste and deposition of that waste into the Arroyo Simi Creek in the event of a significant rain event is being finalized. Work to date is in response to the Easy Fire emergency. All procurement is following VRSD's emergency procurement guidelines as per our Purchasing Ordinance for a landfill consultant, Dragomir, and contractor, Pride Construction.

Further, due to the fact that the Easy Fire did not cause widespread structural damage like the Thomas or Woolsey Fires that precipitated State or Federal emergency declarations, there will not be any federal or state reimbursement from those costs. The funding for emergency repairs will most likely need to be borne by the Consortium. The estimated expenditures to date are \$700,000.

Staff will present information about both landfill fires and emergency response at today's meeting, including information about damages incurred during the fire, as well as repairs completed to date.

This letter has been reviewed by Legal Counsel as to form.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (805) 658-4600 or email at ChrisTheisen@vrsd.com.

CHRIS THEISEN, GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



Chris Theisen, General Manager

Attachments: None