



September 7, 2023

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A FY 2023-24 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT AND INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR TOLAND ROAD LANDFILL LEACHATE HAULING AND DISPOSAL SERVICES BY WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL

RECOMMENDATION

Consider and Approve FY 2023-24 Budget adjustment in the amount of \$420,000 for additional appropriations needed to fund leachate hauling and disposal.

FISCAL IMPACT

Additional appropriations in the amount of \$420,000 are needed to fund the amount in excess of the original \$12,000 adopted budget for FY 2023-24. The \$420,000 will come from the \$1,272,000 projected available fund balance in the Solid Waste Fund less prior allocations, leaving a projected balance of approximately \$852,000 by June 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Toland Road Landfill Leachate Management

As a part of the regulatory requirement for operating the landfill, leachate a by-product of landfills, needs to be managed.

Leachate is liquid, primarily rainwater, which passes through the buried landfill waste. Leachate from landfills is a major concern to surrounding communities as the water can dissolve or pick up chemicals, acids, and particles from landfill material. Leachate can contain dissolved organic compounds, suspended solids, various acids, toxic metals, and disease-causing microorganisms.

Currently, Toland Road Landfill leachate is collected via a leachate drainage layer installed on the floor and side slopes of the lined landfill cells. Once collected, it is hauled and disposed of by a certified third-party vendor.

As part of the FY2023 Budget, the Board approved a leachate treatment system in the amount of \$360,000. This project includes development of engineering plans, permitting,

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bidding, and construction work to construct a leachate treatment system to process collected leachate for use on site for dust control and thereby eliminate the need for costly off-site hauling.

It was anticipated that the leachate treatment system would be completed by the end of June 2023. Unfortunately, this project was delayed because of the urgent need to redirect landfill staff to remove, repair, and replace the leachate pumps in the landfill gas wells in order to prevent them from becoming watered in. Once a landfill gas well becomes watered in it will stop producing gas or you will see a rise in the landfill temperature due to accumulating landfill gas.

These conditions may lead to permit violations with possible methane escaping through the landfill cover and not through the approved gas extraction system. In the interim, without the use of the leachate treatment system as a means of processing the leachate on-site, Toland Road Landfill staff must continue the use of off-site hauling and disposal of the leachate.

PROPOSAL

The FY 2023-24 Budget includes \$12,000 for limited Toland Road Landfill leachate hauling and disposal services, as the leachate treatment system was to be up and running beginning July 2023. Since the leachate treatment system has been delayed, with an anticipated completion date of December 2023, the District will need to continue to haul the leachate off-site for a longer period of time. Total additional appropriations is \$420,000, comprised of approximately \$70,000 per month for six months.

Although this recommended additional allocation will negatively impact the finances of the Solid Waste fund, it is a necessary and unavoidable cost.

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) 658-4657 or via email at RichardJones@vrzd.com.



RICHARD JONES, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

APPROVED FOR FISCAL IMPACT:



Alvertina Rivera, Director of Finance

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



Chris Theisen, General Manager

Attachments: None

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