



March 7, 2024

Board of Directors
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura, California

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY 2023-24 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT OF \$212,238 FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR TOLAND ROAD LANDFILL LEACHATE HAULING AND DISPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION

Consider and Approve FY 2023-24 Budget adjustment in the amount of \$212,238 for additional appropriations needed to fund leachate hauling and disposal.

FISCAL IMPACT

Additional appropriations in the amount of \$212,238 are needed to fund the amount in excess of the original \$12,000 adopted budget for FY 2023-24 and the previously approved \$420,000 budget amendment. The \$212,238 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 \$393,762 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, 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.

The leachate treatment system would have been completed by the end of June 2023. Unfortunately, the leachate treatment system 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.

The piping and pumps were installed and repaired the system was put online and began treating the Leachate in July of 2023. Due to inconsistencies in the leachate with volume and fluctuating Total Organic Carbon (TOC) and Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC), the treatment system has not been able to consistently meet the discharge requirements set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for use for onsite dust control. The system has also experienced plugging issues in the pipes and pump failures in the wells. Staff has worked to correct these issues and are testing a new type of media in the filters. Once these changes are made, staff will also test a blending plan to achieve the discharge requirements of the RWQCB. If the system is still not able to meet these requirements, Staff will have to continue to haul away and dispose of the leachate. Staff will also seek the most advantageous manner of disposal.

In the interim, without the use of the leachate treatment system as a means of using the leachate on-site for dust control, Toland Road Landfill staff must continue the current practice 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 supposed to be up and running beginning July 2023. At the September 7, 2023 Board meeting, Staff requested and your Board approved additional appropriation of \$420,000 towards leachate hauling and disposal. Since the leachate treatment system is still not meeting the RWQCB requirements for use as onsite dust control, the District will need to continue to haul the leachate off-site for a longer period of time. Additional appropriations of \$212,238 are currently requested, which will cover costs through the end of the fiscal year.

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

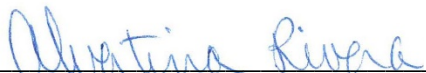
This letter has been reviewed by Legal Counsel as to form.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (805) 658-4657 or via email at RichardJones@vrsd.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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