



March 7, 2024

Board of Directors  
Ventura Regional Sanitation District  
Ventura, California

**APPROVAL OF THE REDESIGN OF TOLAND ROAD LANDFILL CELL 4C; AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN DESIGN APPROVAL FROM THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD; APPROVAL OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR TOLAND ROAD LANDFILL CELL 4C CONSTRUCTION; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO OBTAIN COMPETITIVE BIDS, AND DIRECT DISTRICT STAFF TO EVALUATE FUNDING STRATEGIES FOR \$7.3 MILLION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board:

- A. Receive and File staff report on the design and construction of Toland Road Landfill Cell 4C Project;
- B. Approve the redesign of Cell 4C to include recovering air space;
- C. Authorize staff to seek the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's approval of the design of Cell 4C;
- D. Approve the plans and specifications for bidding and construction,
- E. Authorize staff to obtain competitive bids for the construction of Cell 4C; and
- F. Direct staff to evaluate funding strategies for the additional \$7.3 million needed for the Cell 4C Construction.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Based on the most current engineer's estimates, a future net savings of \$4,676,610 (prior to financing costs) to the District is anticipated by moving forward with the redesign plans. The actual savings realized will depend on the District's ability to secure the additional \$7.3 million, the cost of securing the funding, and actual construction costs for the Toland Road Landfill expansion and closure projects.

## **BACKGROUND**

On January 18, 2024, the Board approved Amendment No. 2 to District Contract No. 22-018 with Dragomir Design-Build, Inc. (Dragomir) to determine and confirm the feasibility of redesigning the final cell, Cell 4C, at the Toland Road Landfill. . The reason for this redesign was an attempt to recover approximately 627,000 cubic yards of air space that was thought to be buried trash but appeared to be an old stockpile of dirt left behind during the original site construction.

Dragomir's scope of services/work included additional exploration of the subject area, geotechnical and civil engineering slope analysis, and redesign of the plans for Cell 4C. Following the Board approval of Amendment No. 2, Dragomir concluded that it was feasible to redesign Cell 4C in order to recover the additional landfill air space. Given the numerous practical benefits of this determination to the life of the Toland Road Landfill and to VRSD's fiscal health (see further discussion below), staff is recommending that your Board approve the redesign of Cell 4C.

In association with Dragomir's work, Staff has completed a financial analysis to demonstrate that it makes logical sense to pursue the redesign. The analysis included the current best estimate for construction costs, which have increased dramatically since the last estimate for Cell 4C was prepared in 2019. The redesign will increase the estimated amount of soil to be moved from 702,500 cubic yards to 1,141,000 cubic yards.

All told, the Cell 4C redesign is expected to cost an additional \$3,671,010 in construction costs over and above current Cell 4C costs. However, there is \$8,347,620 of expected future savings to offset these costs, which consists of \$2,273,620 in savings for less soil importation and \$6,074,000 forgone because the reconstruction of failed slope bench will no longer be needed. The net result is an estimated cost benefit of \$4,676,610 to undertake the proposed Cell 4C redesign.

In addition, the recovered air space will allow more of the County's solid waste to be disposed at Toland and it will add an additional 1.6 years to the life of the landfill.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The currently budgeted amount of \$7.2 million for Cell 4C is insufficient for either the redesign or original, which now stands at \$10.8 million due to the increase in construction costs since the current Cell 4C budget was established in 2019. The new budget estimate for the capital costs associated with the Cell 4C redesign is \$14.5 million (\$10.8 M plus \$3.7M). Staff will need to seek funding for the additional \$7.3 million.

**PROPOSAL**

Based on the overall positive effects of the Cell 4C redesign to Toland Road Landfill operations and VRSD finances in general, staff recommends that the Board approve the project as outlined in staff recommendations in this Board letter.

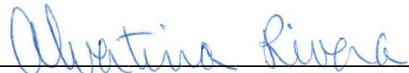
This letter has been reviewed by Legal Counsel as to form.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by phone at (805) 658-4679 or via email at [richardjones@vrsd.com](mailto:richardjones@vrsd.com).



RICHARD JONES, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

APPROVED FOR FISCAL IMPACT:

  
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Alvertina Rivera, Director of Finance

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

  
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Chris Theisen, General Manager

Attachments: None

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