

<b>COUNTY OF SONOMA AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY REPORT</b>		Clerk of the Board Use Only	
		Meeting Date ____/____/____	Held Until ____/____/____
		Agenda Item No.: _____	Agenda Item No.: _____
<b>Department:</b> Transportation and Public Works		[ <input type="checkbox"/> ] <b>4/5 Vote Required</b>	
<b>Contact:</b> Susan Klassen	<b>Phone:</b> (707) 565-2231	<b>Board Date:</b> 07/14/09	<b>Deadline for Board Action:</b>
<b>Agenda Short Title:</b>  Amendment to Agreement for Water and Landfill Gas Monitoring at County Landfills and Transfer Stations.			
<b>Requested Board Action:</b>  Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Second Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacific GeoScience to provide water quality and landfill gas monitoring services at County landfills and transfer stations for an additional two years at the existing annual cost of \$234,000.			
<b>CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>			
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>		<b><u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u></b>	
Estimated Cost	\$-0-	Contingencies	\$
		(Fund Name: _____)	
Amount Budgeted	\$-0-	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
		(Source: _____)	
Other Avail. Approp.	\$ _____	Other Transfer(s)	\$ _____
(Explain below)			
<b>Additional Requested:</b>	\$-0-	<b>Add'l Funds Requested:</b>	\$
<b>Prior Board Action(s):</b> 7/08/08: Board approved the First Amendment for one additional year of service. 08/05/03: Board approved the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacific GeoScience for water and gas monitoring and related consulting services for the County landfills and transfer stations.			
<b>Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:</b> Board may not approve agreement with Pacific GeoScience. Board may direct staff to put out an RFP for the selected services. The Board may direct County staff to perform all monitoring, although this option would require additional staff, expertise, and specialized equipment that the Integrated Waste Division does not currently have and this option would negatively impact other engineering priorities in the Integrated Waste Division. Failure to perform water and landfill gas monitoring will result in violations of California Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements and permitting violations.			

**Background:**

Federal and State regulations require water quality and landfill gas monitoring and reporting to safeguard the health and welfare of the public and the environment. Prior to 1995, Integrated Waste Division (“Division”) personnel performed this monitoring. Consultants have been contracted to perform these services since 1995 because regulatory requirements for monitoring and reporting have significantly increased and the Division does not have the staff or the specialized equipment to comply in a timely manner. Staff is also concerned about regulatory and public perception of the credibility of performing its own monitoring. The County faces substantial legal penalties for failure to collect and report environmental monitoring data from the disposal sites.

On May 1, 2003, a request for proposals for water and landfill gas monitoring was circulated and made available to 11 perspective consultants, the majority of whom had contacted the department in the past for this type of work.

Department staff then performed a detailed analysis of the cost proposals from the two highest ranked consultants from the interviews, who also had the two lowest cost proposals for performing the work. Staff also completed a review of the technical proposals paying special attention to the personnel that would be performing the majority of the work for this project. Upon completion of this review, department staff selected Pacific GeoScience and recommended their selection to the board based on the intrinsic value and high quality of work they brought to the project. The Board subsequently accepted this recommendation, and the County entered into an Agreement with Pacific GeoScience to perform monitoring and reporting at the County's landfills and transfer stations. The term of the Agreement was one year with the option of four one-year extensions, which the County has exercised. The First Amendment was approved on July 8, 2008, extending the Agreement for one year. Although this scope of work could be competitively bid, the Division is unsure whether the entire scope of work will be necessary if divestiture of the solid waste facilities occurs. Due to the lack of clarity on future work, the County could end up with higher prices and/or need to renegotiate a new Agreement shortly after it has been awarded.

Under this Amendment, Pacific GeoScience will continue to perform all work necessary for gas, water, and leachate monitoring, not including laboratory analysis. Water monitoring will be performed at the Airport, Occidental, Annapolis, Central, Guerneville, Healdsburg, Roblar, and Sonoma closed landfills and the Annapolis, Guerneville, Healdsburg, and Sonoma transfer stations. Air monitoring will be performed at the Annapolis, Central, and Healdsburg closed landfills. Pacific GeoScience has committed to keeping rates frozen at the levels provided over the last seven years of the Agreement. Therefore, the cost of the additional two years of providing these services will remain at \$234,000 per year.

(continued on next page)

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Second Amendment to Agreement

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

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**Vote:**

Staff believes that this contract price remaining at the 2003 level provides compelling value to the County even under the recent down turn in economic conditions. Pacific GeoScience is a small local firm, such that the principals perform the majority of the work. Because the principals perform most of the work, from sample collection, laboratory coordination, and report writing, there is a consistency throughout project, which leads to a high quality work product. Field staff in this line of work typically bill out at a minimum in the range of \$50 to \$55 dollars per hour and have very limited experience in environmental services. Pacific GeoScience's contract, held constant since 2003, has a flat rate of \$60 dollars per hour for personnel with 21 plus years experience performing the work.

The Consultant has specialized expertise not available within the County, thereby making contracting for these services the most effective business decision. There is no change to the annual dollar amount of this Agreement, to the rates charged by the Consultant, or to the scope of work. Therefore, staff is recommending that the existing Agreement be extended an additional two years. Funding for this Amendment to the Agreement is budgeted in the proposed FY 09/10 Refuse Enterprise Fund budget (286120-6540). This Amendment to the Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

**Recommendation:**

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Second Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacific GeoScience to provide water quality and landfill gas monitoring services at County landfills and transfer stations for an additional two years at the existing annual cost of \$234,000.