

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
FROM: EMMA WALTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, REGIONAL  
OPERATIONS, WATER DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF BIOSOLIDS AND LAND  
APPLICATION WITH GILARDI & JACOBSEN AG SERVICES, INC.

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, approve a five-year agreement for biosolids land application with Gilardi & Jacobsen Ag Services, Inc., for a total contract amount not to exceed amount of \$114,418.95.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Execution of this agreement provides services for spreading of biosolids and agricultural lime on the City's south county biosolids land application sites. The City has historically contracted with Gilardi and Jacobsen under separate agreements for each land application site. With this Agreement, the Contractor shall continue to provide the necessary equipment and personnel for spreading biosolids generated at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant (LTP) and agricultural lime purchased by the City at all of the various South County land application sites.

BACKGROUND

Santa Rosa Water's Biosolids Management System includes beneficial reuse of approximately 2/3 of the biosolids generated at LTP via direct application of class B biosolids onto Sonoma County farmlands. Land application of biosolids supplies valuable nutrients to croplands and ultimately enhances fodder crop production.

The Federal 503 regulations for biosolids agricultural land application require the addition of agricultural lime for pH adjustment as needed. The agricultural lime is purchased by the City and delivered to the farms, where it is staged for spreading.

As a result of biosolids application, excessive weeds tend to grow on croplands, primarily because of the added nitrogen and moisture. Herbicide spraying on the areas of the farm

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that receive biosolids is therefore typically required. The City reimburses the contractor for herbicide spraying of farmland onto which biosolids have been applied.

An outside contractor, through agreement with the City, spreads the staged agricultural lime onto the farmlands, then spreads the biosolids onto the fields, and applies herbicides as needed. Gilardi & Jacobsen Ag Services, Inc., has performed services satisfactorily in the past and is familiar with and adheres to Federal 503 and State General Order regulations.

The previous agreements with Gilardi and Jacobsen were for a total of seven sites, and included the spreading, incorporation of biosolids and lime, as well as herbicide application.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

None.

ANALYSIS

Based on a comparison of pricing for Biosolids Land Application services provided to the City in recent years by another local contractor typically responsive to the City's requests for such services (Poncia Fertilizer & Spreading), the Gilardi & Jacobsen Ag Services, Inc., is considered fair and reasonable.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this operational expense have been allocated in the fiscal year operations and maintenance budgets of the Water Department and will be similarly proposed in future years.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Spreading of City-generated biosolids and agricultural lime is part of the City's Biosolids land application project on City-owned and private lands, which has been reviewed consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to (1) Residuals Processing Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted in 1997, (2) the Santa Rosa Subregional Sludge Beneficial Use Project Program EIR certified in 1991, (3) the Management Plan for the Beneficial Reuse of Biosolids by Land Application CEQA TM 2.2 adopted in 1993, and (4) the South County Biosolids Reuse MND adopted in 2010. The proposed Project was included in the scope of previously adopted environmental documents and no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not Applicable

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Gilardi & Jacobsen Application and Spreading Agreement

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