

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 4**

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS AND ADVERTISE AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE RAMONA BURN DUMP CONSOLIDATE AND CAP PROJECT AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICT: 2)**

**OVERVIEW**

Prior to the 1970s, much of the municipal solid waste in southern California was burned with the ash and remnants buried or placed in dumps, which were rudimentary compared to modern landfills. The County of San Diego (County) operated several burn sites to meet municipal waste disposal needs. From approximately 1947-1974, the County operated the Ramona Burn Dump on National Forest Service lands under a special use permit issued by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Services (USDA FS). The 3.5 acres site is located within the Cleveland National Forest in the unincorporated area of Ramona. When solid waste activities on the site ended in approximately 1974, the burn ash was covered with soil to encapsulate the waste, the permit was ended, and responsibility for the site was returned to the USDA FS.

In November 2007, the Witch Creek fire burned the vegetation covering the Ramona Burn Dump, and a subsequent inspection of the area documented that the soil cap had deteriorated and exposed burn ash and waste debris at the surface. The USDA FS completed a preliminary assessment site inspection which found elevated concentrations of metals, such as arsenic, lead, and zinc, and chemicals, such as dioxins and furans, present at the site. The USDA FS and the County began negotiations regarding responsibility and site remediation requirements. On June 5, 2023, both parties reached a final agreement and court order outlining site remediation efforts.

The agreement requires the County to bring the site back into compliance with State regulations and makes the County the responsible party for ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Following the final agreement and court order, the County received \$1,500,000 from its prior insurance carriers from policies that the County had in the 1960s and 1970s, that was deposited into the General Fund fund balance.

As part of the Closed Landfill program, the County's Department of Public Works (DPW) manages County owned closed burn sites. DPW coordinated with the USDA FS to complete additional site assessments and develop a remediation plan to reduce potential public and environmental health risks and future site erosion. The USDA FS has approved the design plan for construction to consolidate the waste into a smaller footprint, install an improved soil cap, and improve drainage and site security. Construction costs for these components are estimated at \$5,150,000 including contingencies for unforeseen conditions, and the funding source is available prior year General Fund fund balance. After completion of the project, ongoing maintenance of the site will be performed by DPW with an estimated annual cost of \$40,000.

This is a request for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve the advertisement and subsequent award of a construction contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the project. Upon Board approval, the Department of Purchasing and Contracting will advertise and subsequently award a contract for construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025 and be completed in early 2026.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(1) because the activity does not involve the exercise of discretionary powers by a public agency.
2. Transfer of appropriations of \$5,150,000 within Department of Public Works General Fund, Services & Supplies to Operating Transfers Out; *and* establish appropriations of \$5,150,000 in Inactive Waste Site Management Fund, Services & Supplies, for Ramona Burn Dump Consolidate and Cap Project, based on an Operating Transfer In from the Department of Public Works General Fund. **(4 VOTES)**
3. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to advertise and award a construction contract for the Ramona Burn Dump Consolidate and Cap Project and to take any action authorized by Section 401 et seq., of the Administrative Code with respect to contracting for the Construction Contract for the Project.
4. Designate the Director, Department of Public Works, as County Officer responsible for administering the construction contract, in accordance with Board Policy F-41, Public Works Construction Projects.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's action continues the County of San Diego's (County) commitment to providing programs and services that enhance the health and safety of our local community. This action reflects the County's focus on equitable outcomes for all members of our community by addressing environmental concerns and protecting public health through the proper management of closed burn sites.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's action supports the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals to protect the environment and health and well-being of residents. Remediation of the Ramona Burn Dump site to encapsulate waste and contaminated soils and continued monitoring and maintenance of the site helps reduce the risk of exposure for humans and wildlife, reduces potential environmental and human health impacts through hazard mitigation, and preserves natural resources, ecosystems, and habitats.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Inactive Waste Site Management Fund. If approved, total construction costs for the Ramona Burn Dump Consolidate and Cap Project are estimated at \$5,150,000, including contingencies. The funding source is an operating transfer from the Department of Public Works, General Fund. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

County of San Diego contracts are competitively bid and help stimulate the local economy by creating employment opportunities. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid the prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter