

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

681



FROM: Waste Management Department  
and Fire Department

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 10, 2003

SUBJECT: Assistance with Local and State Emergency Declarations due to the Epidemic Infestation of Bark Beetles in and Around Idyllwild and Pine Cove Communities – Award of Grinding Contract/Pilot Program for Disposal

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

1. That the Board authorize the County Purchasing Agent to execute a contract agreement on behalf of the County with Viramontes Express for a pilot program to grind bark beetle tree material upon approval by County Counsel and the Executive Office.
2. Authorize the Waste Management Department General Manager-Chief Engineer to establish and administer individual contracts (upon approval by County Counsel and the Executive Office) for the use of a temporary grinding facility, allow waivers for participating agencies and provide staff for limiting gate access during the pilot program.
3. Direct the Waste Management Department General Manager-Chief Engineer to report back to the Board and provide a status report after the initial 60-day pilot program's operational period (from the commencement of grinding operations).

(Cont'd)

FORM APPROVED  
COUNTY COUNSEL

JUL 10 2003

BY *[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
Joseph R. McCann, General Manager – Chief Engineer

*[Signature]*  
Tom Tisdale, Fire Chief

FINANCIAL DATA: ANNUAL COST: \$ 700,000\*  
 CURRENT YEAR COST: \$ -0- IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: YES \_\_\_ NO X  
 NET COUNTY COST: \$ -0\* BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: YES \_\_\_ NO X FY: 03-04  
 SOURCE OF FUNDS: \*Contractual Fees will pay for Grinding Services

COUNTY C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

**APPROVE**

Executive Officer Signature

*[Signature]*

Department Recommendation:  Consent  Policy  
Per Executive Office:  Consent  Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.

Dist. 3

Agenda No.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

12.1

**BACKGROUND:**

The Waste Management Department has been working jointly with the Riverside County Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CDF), Environmental Health Department (RCEHD), Supervisor Venable's office and the United States Forest Service (USFS) regarding the Local and State Emergency Declarations due to the Epidemic Infestation of Bark Beetles in and around the Idyllwild and Pine Cove Communities. Serious green waste handling implications have arisen due to the large volume of forest material that is being generated from within the San Jacinto Forest in the Idyllwild/Mountain Center areas as a result of the bark beetle infestation which causes high tree mortality.

Over the last year, tree mortality has reached such a high level of concern that fire officials have sought and obtained both local and State declarations of emergencies due to the high level of fire risk. In an effort to mitigate the fire danger, USFS and the CDF are working diligently to identify, prioritize and remove the affected trees and associated "slash." Although USFS and the CDF have pursued and found many alternative uses for the material (such as firewood, pressboard, biomass fuel, etc.), a substantial amount still has no option but to be transported to area green waste processors and could possibly end up in County landfills. Both are inefficient, costly alternatives that have the potential to negatively impact the County's disposal system.

In an effort to provide the most cost effective processing of this material, the USFS and CDF have concluded that a contract for grinding the unmarketable material through the use of portable tub grinders for subsequent energy conversion at the Colmac facility in Mecca is preferred. Additionally, the USFS will allow the proposed grinding operation to be sited at the old Idyllwild landfill, owned by the USFS, approximately one mile south of the Idyllwild transfer station. In addition to the USFS commitment of land to use for the temporary grinding facility, they are waiving fees for issuing a Special Use Permit and will provide routine, unannounced fire safety inspections during grinding operations.

The Waste Management Department, along with the aforementioned agencies, has worked with Supervisor Venable's office to coordinate proposed funding, regulatory assistance and a subsequent RFP related to the grinding process in an effort to alleviate impacts to area residents.

To provide a stable and sustainable funding source associated with an ongoing grinding operation, the involved agencies have agreed that charging users of the grinding facility a reasonable tip fee based upon the grinding contract is appropriate. It is anticipated that if a reasonable contractual charge for disposal is established in this manner, sufficient funding for the estimated \$700,000-\$1,000,000 annual operational costs would be met. The Waste Management Department has discussed this issue with County Counsel, and the Auditor determined that individual contracts (to be developed) for use of the grinding facility can be executed in order to proceed with this funding mechanism. The tip fee contained within each contemplated contract will contain a "blended" rate (assuming half to the Colmac facility and half to Viramontes Express) that will account for future disposal flexibility, an assumption of subsidized tonnage from agencies that are participating with in-kind services, and a contingency amount.

**BACKGROUND (CONT'D):**

This “blended” rate is envisioned to be approximately \$20 per ton to be charged uniformly across all contracts. Contracts will be administered by the Waste Management Department in the same manner as the punch card system for its desert landfill facilities. After 60 days, actual costs will be reviewed and adjusted to account for any unforeseen costs, with a report back to the Board.

Initially, it is expected that the major volume and contractually committed users of the temporary grinding facility will be tree service contractors hired by Southern California Edison (SCE), private tree service and timber operators (both local and non-local firms now working in the area), County-contracted tree service firms using FEMA HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) funds, State of California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) road crews and USFS service-contract tree removal firms. By using the punch card system (which requires an upfront contractual payment prior to being granted access to the temporary grinding facility) disposal costs (a relatively small, but significant, portion of the overall removal effort’s cost) could be equally distributed back to the ultimate funding sources.

Two proposals for the grinding operation were submitted to the County, from Bradco Industrial Corporation and Viramontes Express. A Request for Proposal was issued through County Purchasing on May 27, 2003 and solicitations were sent to 8 vendors and advertised on the Internet. Bradco Industrial proposed a cost of \$18/ton and \$27.50/ton for grinding/disposal to Colmac and an alternative recycling facility, respectively. Viramontes proposed a cost of \$11/ton and \$16.50/ton for grinding/disposal to Colmac and an alternative recycling facility, respectively. Staff of the USFS, CDF and Waste Management have reviewed the proposals and consider the Viramontes Express proposal (Attachment A) to be the most responsive and cost effective proposal. Given the short time frames involved and the need to expedite the grinding of material, the Department is requesting that the contract agreement with Viramontes Express be finalized by the Purchasing Department and executed on behalf of the County upon approval by County Counsel and Executive Office (draft attached as Attachment B).