

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

801



FROM: Waste Management Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
September 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Extension of the Award of the Grinding Contract between the County and Viramontes Express for the Removal of Bark Beetle Infested Tree Material in the Idyllwild Area.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors authorize the County Purchasing Agent to execute an extension of the contract agreement on behalf of the County with Viramontes Express to grind bark beetle tree material.

BACKGROUND: On July 15, 2003, the Board authorized a Pilot Program for the Disposal of Bark Beetle affected tree material in the Idyllwild area. The program consisted of the establishment of a temporary grinding facility to alleviate the increase in green waste deliveries to the existing transfer station and provide for a facility to handle much larger tree removal efforts. The temporary grinding facility has significantly improved the ability of the operator of the existing transfer station to alleviate the hazards associated with the current level of tree removal in the area. The Waste Management Department (WMD) continues to work jointly with Supervisor Stone's office, the Riverside County Fire Department/California Department of Forestry (CDF), 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. (Continued)

Hans Kernkamp, General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 425,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	FY06

SOURCE OF FUNDS: User fees collected at the grinding facility gate.	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

FORM APPROVED
COUNTY COUNSEL

SEP 01 2005
Lee A. Vincent

County Executive Office Signature

BY _____

- Policy
- Consent
- Dept's Recomm.: _____
- Per Exec. Ofc.: _____

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 12.1 of 7/13/03 | **District:** 3 | **Agenda Number:** _____

BACKGROUND:

During the two years that the grinding facility has been in operation in the Idyllwild area more than 52,000 tons of tree material has been processed at the facility. This tonnage is diverted to another use and contributes to the County's landfill diversion mandates under AB939. The ground product is used as wood pellets for burning, chip material for construction products, and alternative daily cover.

What began as an experimental project with temporary infrastructure has been improved to include a modular gate fee office and a portable scale at a cost of approximately \$37,000. The infrastructure improvements have been funded in large part through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant obtained through the collective efforts of the Idyllwild MAST group and administered by the County Economic Development Agency (EDA). Although the grinding and hauling away of the tree material is covered by the facility's user fees on a pass through basis (i.e. the user fee equals the contracted disposal fee), the County has supported the effort by providing manpower, procurement services, tonnage tracking, and the collection of fees at the site.

The operation is open to area customers six days a week – Monday through Saturday, from 7:30 am until 4:30 pm. The ability to dispose of the infested tree material locally supports the mountain communities throughout the fire season since the bark beetle affected trees present an increased fire risk in these areas.

The Department is requesting approval for a contract extension that would be renewable annually for five years to insure that sufficient time is available to give the area residents and affected property owners time to conveniently and economically dispose of infested tree material. Keeping the current facility in operation on an ongoing basis reduces the risk of forest fire from the bark beetle infested material. In addition, the costs and time associated with the removal of one vendor and the establishment of another increases the risks associated with the tree material as well as an operational learning curve during a period of continued fire emergency brought on by the bark beetle infestation. Viramontes Express has demonstrated that the grinding facility operates efficiently to remove and recycle the material, supporting both landfill diversion and recycling objectives. With the necessary infrastructure in place, funding for the facility is provided in large part by those customers who establish prepaid accounts to deliver to the grinding facility. Any additional cost is funded by regular disposal fees.