

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



FROM: Supervisor Roy Wilson

SUBMITTAL DATE: October 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2008-455 Requesting State Aid in Mitigating Illegal Dump Near Blythe

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Adopt Resolution 2008-455 Requesting California State Integrated Waste Management Assistance in Mitigating Mission Fiber Dump on 4th District unincorporated property.

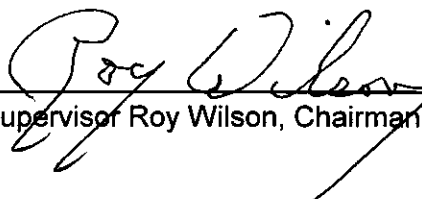
JUSTIFICATION: Mission Fiber / Western Land & Farming began dumping a large amount of rubbish on land just south of the Blythe City Limits more than a year ago.

Continued dumping buried approximately 8 acres of land 12 feet deep in comingled trash. Subsequent attempts by several county departments, including Code Enforcement, District Attorney, County Counsel and others to gain compliance resulted in approximately a 50 percent mitigation and then cessation of clean-up efforts.

The citizens of Blythe, nearby residents of the unincorporated area, and area commercial, industrial and farming businesses are subjected to odor and vermin, not to mention the threat of a toxic fire, which County fire officials say that they cannot fight because of the lack of water at the site.

Costs of mitigation have been estimated as high as almost \$1 million, an amount which is onerous for the County to take on.

Resolution No. 2008-455 (copy attached) requests abatement by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. County of Riverside cooperation with the CIWMB, and Board endorsement of the attached resolution is vital.


Supervisor Roy Wilson, Chairman

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-455**

3 **REQUESTING STATE AID IN MITIGATING ILLEGAL DUMP NEAR BLYTHE**

4 WHEREAS, Western Land & Farming / Mission Fiber dumped approximately 24,000 tons of co-
5 mingled trash on property in unincorporated Riverside County just south of the City of Blythe;

6 WHEREAS, approximately 7.9 acres of land located at 14560 South Broadway was covered with
7 the trash to a depth of 12 or more feet;

8 WHEREAS, several county departments and agencies, including Code Enforcement, District
9 Attorney, County Counsel and others have been actively involved in attempting to gain voluntary
10 mitigation or to force said compliance if necessary;

11 WHEREAS, commercial and industrial businesses in the area have complained of increased odor,
12 vermin and wind-carried debris caused by the illegal dump;

13 WHEREAS, there is no fire suppression infrastructure present, subjecting residents in the area to
14 the very real possibility of a toxic fire which could burn for days and cause mass evacuations;

15 WHEREAS, all attempts to achieve mitigation have resulted in less than a 50 percent reduction in
16 the amount of rubbish on site, and an apparent cessation of removal attempts;

17 WHEREAS, the excessive costs of abating this site are not practical for the County of Riverside to
18 absorb.

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, State of California, in
20 regular session assembled on October 7, 2008, that State of California Integrated Waste Management
21 Board assistance in removing this blight is needed and officially requested.

22 Dated this 7th day of October, 2008.

23
24 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

25
26
27 By: _____
Chairman, Board of Supervisors



Bill Luna
County Executive Officer

Jay E. Orr
Assistant County Executive Officer

Executive Office, County of Riverside

September 30, 2008

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Riverside
Robert T. Andersen Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501-3651

Subject: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF BALLOT HANDLING PROCESSES

Board Members:

On September 16th, you voted to engage a consultant to address election concerns. The Executive Office was directed to begin the process of identifying a qualified firm to analyze the November 4 General Election and later prepare a report on the process, including recommendations for improvements.

Our initial assessment was that it was important to have reviewers available to make field observations during the processes of distributing ballots and voting equipment, and of training poll workers. With six weeks remaining before the general election, time is of the essence in this engagement. We expected to have difficulty locating a firm knowledgeable about elections but not otherwise obligated in Autumn 2008. To identify options, staff from the Executive Office coordinated with those in Purchasing and the Registrar of Voters' Office, and sought input from SaveRVote. The executive director of SaveRVote provided a list of firms that were both acceptable and unacceptable to that group. However, I am recommending a firm that was not on either list.

I recommend that you engage an individual with impeccable qualifications and credentials for this project, who heads a division of the local firm Best, Best and Krieger. The Public Policy and Ethics Compliance Group of Best, Best & Krieger, with an office in Riverside, specializes in independent management reviews of public agencies, and is headed by Grover Trask, a highly credible individual who is intimately familiar with the electoral process, and who has unquestioned integrity.

A scope of work has been drafted to guide the review process. It incorporates some, but not all, issues raised by SaveRVote. The scope of work details the voting processes to be analyzed and the contents of the final report, and would be included in the contract with the consulting firm. The firm would be directed to determine whether adequate controls are in place to prevent fraud and to ensure compliance with applicable laws, policies, procedures and standards. Instead of reviewing past election materials (a costly exercise), the consultant would ensure that the Registrar's Office is prepared for the upcoming election and has appropriate plans in place to address foreseeable events.

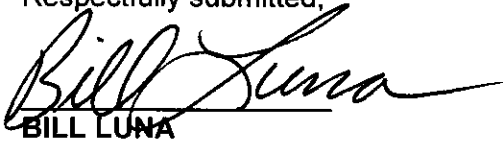
Subject: **OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF BALLOT HANDLING PROCESSES**
Page 2

Other options include directing the Purchasing agent to use the attached scope of work to begin soliciting proposals from companies interested in this type of consulting engagement. However, none would, in my opinion, approach the credibility that Mr. Trask would bring to this engagement.

It is anticipated that this work can be performed at a cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000; a contract for up to \$165,000 would include a 10% contingency. General funds held in contingency are available for this purpose, and would later be appropriated. An hourly rate schedule would be incorporated into the contract to ensure that billings contain sufficient detail. I anticipate that the work can be completed by March 1, 2009. With your concurrence, I will proceed with development of a contract with Best, Best & Krieger.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Best, Best & Krieger, not to exceed \$165,000, to review the election process in accordance with the attached scope of work.

Respectfully submitted,



BILL LUNA

County Executive Officer

SCOPE OF WORK

The Consultant shall conduct an operational review of the Riverside County Registrar of Voters' Office (ROV) for accountability and security of ballots used in elections, in accordance with California legal requirements, Secretary of State voting system re-approval conditions, and ROV policy and procedure documents, and make recommendations for improvement.

- 1) Consultant shall examine the ROV's ballot handling procedures from delivery of ballots from the printer to the final storage of those ballots for the required retention period.
- 2) Based on the results of the Consultant's review, examination and research, the Consultant shall make appropriate recommendations to areas that need improvement and suggest best practices. Consultant shall include in the report, where applicable:
 - i) Compliance with policies and procedures
 - ii) Compliance with applicable state and federal laws
 - iii) Professional practices compared with comparable jurisdictions
 - iv) Alternative models to enhance accountability and security
- 3) Consultant shall provide a detailed report of the appropriateness of the ROV's safeguards and controls. Areas to be examined include inventory; ballot storage, privacy, and transport; equipment storage, privacy, and transport; counting of ballots; polling place security; custody transfer; employee accountability; documentation; and compliance. The following areas shall be reviewed:
 - i) Vote-by-mail ballot handling
 - ii) Polling place ballot handling
 - iii) Collection center ballot handling
 - iv) Counter ballot handling
 - v) Duplicate ballots
 - vi) Electronic ballots
 - vii) Poll worker training
- 4) Consultant shall interview or survey, as appropriate and feasible:
 - i) Secretary of State (and/or Secretary of State staff)
 - ii) Registrar of Voters
 - iii) ROV employees
 - iv) Elections officials in other counties
 - v) Citizen observers
- 5) Consultant shall prepare draft and final reports, providing time and opportunity for the County to review and provide feedback for accuracy. In both the draft and final reports, Consultant shall include scope and methodology, and identify areas for improved handling, operations, and effectiveness.