

AGENDA STAFF REPORT



MEETING NAME: REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS
MEETING DATE(S): MAY 14 & 18, 2026
FROM: DANNY FRIEND – DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
FOR: ACTION X DIRECTION _____ INFORMATION _____

AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ECOLOGY AUTO PARTS INC.

FOR HAULING AND OFF-SITE DISPOSAL OF BIO-SOLIDS, GRIT, AND SCREENINGS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a 3-year contract with Ecology Auto Parts, Inc. (Ecology), in an amount not to exceed \$1,380,000 (\$460,000 per year), for off-site hauling of biosolids, grit, and screenings for landfill disposal or beneficial reuse, and to take all actions necessary to complete the project.

SUMMARY

MSWD’s wastewater treatment facilities process approximately 2.5 million gallons of wastewater per day generated by residents and local businesses within the community of Desert Hot Springs. This treatment process generates up to 25 tons of biosolids daily, which must be transported off-site for disposal. Given the volume of material generated and the need for uninterrupted operations, reliable hauling services are essential to maintaining continuous treatment and regulatory compliance. Ecology is currently under contract with the District to provide these hauling services. Throughout the term of their current three-year contract, Ecology has been highly responsive to District needs, demonstrating flexibility with trailer pickups and drop-offs, maintaining excellent communication, and addressing any issues promptly as they arise.

ANALYSIS

The District’s current biosolids contract with Ecology expires on June 30, 2026. In accordance with the District’s procurement policy, staff issued a Request for Proposals to secure a new biosolids hauling services contract. Proposals were received from Ecology, Synagro, and Chaffee Construction. Following a comprehensive review, staff recommends awarding a contract to Ecology, the highest scored proposal based on competitive pricing, extensive experience in biosolids hauling, availability of required equipment, and access to multiple local disposal outlets, including composting and beneficial reuse options. Ecology’s established reliability and familiarity with District operations further support this recommendation. Please see Exhibit B – Scoring Summary for more information on the scoring.

FISCAL IMPACT & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

All costs for this contract are included in the FY 2026/2027 budget request. This action aligns with Strategic Plan Goal 5.1 – Increase Use of Sustainable Energy Sources and Optimize Efficiencies 9 – Explore additional sludge recycling options for future reuse.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A: Contract Agreement and Proposal
- Exhibit B : Scoring Summary
- Exhibit C: Draft Spill Response Plan

FINANCIAL DATA		
Cost Associated with this action:	\$1,380,000.00	
Current FY cost:	\$0.00	
Future FY cost:	\$1,380,000.00	
Is it covered in current year budget:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget adjustment needed:	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, year needed:	N/A	
All previous contracts including dates, amounts and board approvals are attached or have been made available.		
FUNDING SOURCES		
Source of funds:	301 Sewer Fund	
Account # / Project #	301-582-53465	
Current BID/Job balance	Next FY Budget	
Balance remaining if approved:	N/A	