



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 23-0811A, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Synagro-WWT, Inc. for the sludge dryer project.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval of the Fifth Amendment to the Agreement with Synagro-WWT, Inc. for the sludge dryer project.

- This contract is for the disposal of biosolids (including pelletizing) produced by the County's W.E. Dunn Advanced Water Reclamation Facility and South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility.
- This Fifth Amendment provides an increase to the contract in the amount of \$1,390,359.20 to implement the installation of various fire, deflagration, and explosion suppression components that will protect personnel in the event of an actual incident occurring within the pelletizing system. Construction will take approximately eight weeks once the equipment has been procured.
- Approval of the Fifth Amendment ensure County compliance with the required National Fire Protection Association 652 Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust. This standard is enforced by OSHA requiring facilities that process or produce dry material that can or could generate dust to evaluate, address and abate combustible dust hazards.
- The original Agreement authorizes the County to utilize Synagro as the 'Contractor' for capital projects. Utilizing Synagro ensures continuity of operations.
- The current contract amount, including the original construction and providing continuing pelletizing operations through April 23, 2028 (25 years) is \$57,661,264.86. Amendment No. 5 will add \$1,390,359.20, for a new total of \$59,051,624.06.
- The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) awarded this contract on April 3, 2001; the BCC approved the first amendment on September 19, 2006; the BCC approved the second amendment on October 21, 2008; the County Administrator approved the first five-year term extension on February 28, 2013, and the third amendment and second five-year term extension on December 18, 2017. The BCC approved the fourth amendment on January 26, 2021.
- This contract is included in the Proposed Budget Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 - FY29 under Project 004904A South Cross Bayou Pelletizer Dust Hazard Mitigation included in the Capital Improvement Program funded by the Sewer Renewal and Replacement Fund.
- Approving the contract does not obligate the County to spend. That obligation occurs at the time of purchase order, which will be monitored and adhere to the approved budget at the time of obligation and not before.

Contract No. 001-790-C increase in the amount of \$1,390,359.20 for a revised total of \$59,051,624.06; Authorize the Chairman to sign and the Clerk of the Circuit Court to attest.

**Strategic Plan:**

Practice Superior Environmental Stewardship

3.4 Reduce/reuse/recycle resources, including energy, water, and solid waste

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

**Summary:**

The Synagro contract Agreement provides pelletizing for the disposal of biosolids produced by the County's W.E. Dunn Advanced Water Reclamation Facility and South Cross Bayou Advanced Water Reclamation Facility.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) published "NFPA-652 Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust" in 2015. This standard is enforced by OSHA and requires facilities that process or produce dry material that can or could generate dust to evaluate, address and abate combustible dust hazards. OSHA has determined that this applies retroactively to facilities regardless as to when they were originally constructed. As a result, the Utilities Department contracted Synagro to perform through Lewellyn Technologies a "Dust Hazard Analysis" (DHA) as the first step in complying with the NFPA 652 standard, which was completed in 2017. This analysis identified and recommended implementation of (75) considerations to help address the requirements of NFPA 652, with special emphasis placed on (6) of those that apply to the design and installation of various equipment components that would help protect personnel in the event of an actual explosion occurring within the pelletizing system.

Amendment No. 5 is intended to procure and install those (6) recommended implementations.

**Background Information:**

The BCC awarded this contract on April 3, 2001; the BCC approved the First Amendment on September 19, 2006; the BCC approved the Second Amendment on October 21, 2008; the County Administrator approved the first five-year term extension on February 28, 2013; and the Third Amendment and second five-year term extension December 18, 2017. The BCC approved the Fourth Amendment providing for an up to five-year "Continued Operation Period" with options for (3) additional 5-year periods modified from the original Agreement to designate 'life-cycle' expectations and party responsibilities for the now over 20-year-old equipment on January 26, 2021.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated expenditure for purchase and installation: \$1,390,359.20

This contract is included in the Proposed Budget FY24-FY29 under Project 004904A South Cross Bayou Pelletizer Dust Hazard Mitigation included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funded by the Sewer Renewal and Replacement Fund.

Approving the contract does not obligate the County to spend. That obligation occurs at the time of purchase order, which will be monitored and adhere to the approved budget at the time of obligation and not before.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Jeremy Waugh, Interim Director, Utilities  
Merry Celeste, Division Director, Purchasing & Risk, Administrative Services  
Joe Lauro, Director, Administrative Services

**Partners:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Fifth Amendment  
Proposal  
Compliance Requirements Review - Dust Hazard Analysis (DHA) and Design Plans