

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-2200

Tuesday, July 9, 1996
10:30 a.m.
meeting of the

POLICY, RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE

Paul Relis, Chairman
Janet Gotch, Member
Daniel G. Pennington, Member

AGENDA

- Note:
- o Agenda items may be taken out of order.
 - o If written comments are submitted, please provide 15 two-sided copies.
 - o Unless otherwise indicated, Committee meetings will be held in the CIWMB Hearing Room, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA.

Important Notice: The Board intends that Committee Meetings will constitute the time and place where the major discussion and deliberation of a listed matter will be initiated. After consideration by the Committee, matters requiring Board action will be placed on an upcoming Board Meeting Agenda. Discussion of matters on Board Meeting Agendas may be limited if the matters are placed on the Board's Consent Agenda by the Committee. Persons interested in commenting on an item being considered by a Board Committee or the full Board are advised to make comments at the Committee meeting where the matter is considered.

Some of the items listed below may be removed from the agenda prior to the Committee meeting. To verify whether an item will be heard, please call Patti Bertram at (916) 255-2156.

1. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT CONCEPT FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MONITORING OF RICE STRAW BALE SOUND WALL
2. OPEN DISCUSSION
3. ADJOURNMENT

Notice: The Committee may hold a closed session to discuss the appointment or employment of public employees and litigation under authority of Government Code Sections 11126 (a) and (q), respectively.

For further information contact:
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Sacramento, CA 95826

Patti Bertram
(916) 255-2156

NOTE: BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDAS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET. THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD'S HOME PAGE IS AS FOLLOWS: [HTTP://WWW.CIWMB.CA.GOV/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/)

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Policy, Research and Technical Assistance Committee

July 9, 1996
**AGENDA ITEM **

**ITEM: CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT CONCEPT FOR DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION AND MONITORING OF RICE STRAW BALE
SOUND WALL**

I. SUMMARY

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) has proposed to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the California Integrated Waste Management Board to conduct a rice-straw-bale sound wall demonstration project. CalTrans will provide the Board with \$30,000 to subcontract for the demonstration.

II. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

The Policy, Research and Technical Assistance Committee has not previously considered this subject.

III. OPTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Policy, Research and Technical Assistance Committee members may decide to:

1. Forward to the Board the staff's recommendation for adoption of the proposed contract concept with direction to prepare the requisite bidding documents and subsequent contract agreements; or
2. Provide direction to staff for revising the contract concept.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee forward to the Board the staff's recommendation of adopting the proposed contract concept with direction to develop the bidding documents and to enter into contract agreements.

V. ANALYSIS

Background

Traditionally, California's rice growers have engaged in open field burning of rice straw during the fall months to control stem and sheath rot. The rot is believed to poison the soil and drastically reduce future yields.

In 1991, the Legislation passed AB 1378 which establish a year-by-year reduction in the number of acres that may be burned. The California Air Resources Board and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, in their 1995 Report to the Legislature, have recommended holding the "phase-down" at the 1995 level of a 50 percent reduction.

Assembly Bill 1378 also created the Advisory Committee on Alternatives to Rice Straw Burning. The Committee has examined a number of alternative uses of rice straw. The Committee's 1995 report found that the use of rice straw as a construction material has promise but is commercially marginal at this time. Several of the Committee members have expressed opinions that the construction of highway sound walls is a potential use of rice straw.

Contract Concept for Sound Barrier Wall Demonstration Project

The demonstration project is to use baled rice straw as a construction material for sound barrier walls. The project has three phases. The first phase is an engineering feasibility analysis and the preparation of design plans and specifications. The second phase is the actual construction of the wall. The final phase is a two year monitoring program which primarily evaluates the ability of the wall to resist rodents, fungi and bacteria.

Under the Interagency Agreement the Board will be responsible for the awarding of contracts for the engineering feasibility analysis, and construction. Also, the Board will be responsible for preparation of the final report.

Contracting Methods

The contract(s) could be awarded via two alternative methods.

1. Request for Proposal (RFP); or
2. Invitation for Bid (IFB).

Staff recommends use of the IFB process to select the contractor(s). Because the bidders will be responding to a specifically-defined work statement, this method allows for the selection of the lowest cost qualified bidder.

Fiscal Impacts

The total cost of the contracts will be \$30,000 or less which is equal to the funds provided through the Interagency Agreement with CalTrans. Any additional funds will have to be provided by the Board. Staff does not expect that additional funding will be necessary to perform the Demonstration Project.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

1. Contract Concept Summary.

VII. APPROVALS

Prepared by: Neal A. Johnson *NA Johnson* Phone: 255-2580
Reviewed by: Nguyen Van Hanh *N Van Hanh* Phone: 255-2437
Reviewed by: Martha Gildart *M Gildart* Phone: 255-2619
Reviewed by: Marie LaVergne *M LaVergne* Phone: 255-2269
Reviewed by: Caren Trgovcich *CT* Phone: 255-2320
Legal Reviewed: EB Date: 6/27/96

**CONTRACT CONCEPTS
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97**

Concept Number: _____

Requesting Party: WP & MD

Amount: \$30,000

Fund: IWM

Primary Staff Contact: Martha Gildart

Description:

**Engineering Design, Construction and Monitoring of a Sound Wall
Made with Rice Straw Bales**

- Prepare design plans and specifications that are consistent with CalTrans requirements for the construction of the sound wall.
 - Construct a 150 foot long sound wall.
 - Two years of monitoring of the sound wall.
-

Supports Board Mandate:

Market Development Programs, PRC Sections 42000 et. seq.

History: Assembly Bill 1378 (1991) mandates a year-by-year reduction in the amount of rice straw burned in the field. The "phase-down" may result in rice straw being disposed in landfills. The market for rice straw in construction and materials is still its infancy.

Benefit to the Board:

- Demonstrate a new commercial use of rice straw.
 - Reduce the amount of rice straw disposed in landfills or burned in the field.
 - Assist communities with their diversion efforts.
 - Increased markets for rice straw products
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Budget Process: Staff proposes to award one or more contracts for the engineering design, construction and monitoring of the rice straw sound wall. Staff estimates that \$30,000 will be required to pay for the required work.

The funds for this contract concept come from an Interagency Agreement with CalTrans for the sound wall demonstration project.
