

Date: July 16, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Agenda Item No. 8(P)(4)

Resolution No. R-764-25

Subject: Recommendation for Approval to Exercise the Option to Renew Term for Hauling and Disposal of Class B Biosolids

Summary

This item seeks approval of the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") to exercise the one-year option to renew (OTR) term with its originally approved expenditure authority of \$16,000,000 under *Contract No. BW-10481, Hauling and Disposal of Class B Biosolids* (the "Contract"), awarded to CompostUSA of Highlands County, LLC ("CompostUSA") for the Water and Sewer Department (WASD). On October 1, 2024, the Board approved the Contract as amended through Resolution No. R-831-24 for an initial one-year term in the amount of \$16,000,000 with an optional one-year OTR, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000 that may be exercised with approval by a majority vote of the Board. This OTR will allow WASD to continue utilizing the hauling and disposal of Class B biosolids services being provided by CompostUSA at very competitive prices.

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials produced during the wastewater treatment process. The removal of biosolids is essential to maintain effluent quality, which ensures that the water released meets environmental standards and regulatory requirements for safe discharge into the environment. Once biosolids have been removed during the treatment process, they are transported to a disposal site for its end use, which includes composting, land application, landfilling, and other legally permitted disposal methods.

CompostUSA is currently responsible for the removal and disposal of approximately 300 tons of biosolids per workday from WASD's wastewater treatment facilities. The vendor primarily disposes of biosolids through composting, along with other legally permitted methods, in compliance with newly updated State of Florida regulations. Their reliable services help ensure that WASD remains in compliance with operating permits issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), prevent odor complaints, and avoid a backlog of biosolids.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the exercise of the one, one-year OTR with predetermined expenditure authority in the amount of \$16,000,000. The Board awarded this Contract to CompostUSA through Resolution No. R-831-24, as amended, with an allocation of \$16,000,000 for the initial one-year term with one-year OTR, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000 that may be exercised with approval by a majority vote of the Board.

Background

Biosolids are produced daily as a continuous product of the wastewater treatment process as liquids are separated from solids and treated physically and chemically to produce a semisolid, nutrient-rich product. Biosolids must be repurposed for beneficial uses, such as land application, compost, landscaping application, or other methods authorized by federal, state, and local laws and according to regulations mandated by Chapter 62-640, Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."). Land application involves spreading biosolids onto fields to recycle nutrients and improve soil health, while composting turns biosolids into an environmentally friendly soil conditioner and fertilizer. Although composting is more labor-intensive, it results in a higher-quality, more expensive biosolid. Timely hauling and disposal of biosolids is crucial to maintaining regulatory compliance and ensuring proper environmental management. Proper biosolid management protects water bodies, prevents soil pollution, and reduces

public nuisances like odors. The County is the largest producer of biosolids in the State of Florida, at approximately 700 wet tons per day.

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-831-24, which also directed the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee to negotiate with additional vendors for biosolid hauling and disposal services, an Invitation to Bid was issued under full and open competition on November 19, 2024. This resulted in *Contract No. EVN0017499*, awarded by the Board through Resolution No. R-321-25 to Environmental Protection & Improvement Company, LLC ("EPIC"), in the amount of \$88,083,250 (Group 2: Hauling and Disposal of Class B Biosolids by any Legal Method) and Merrell Bros., Inc. ("MBI"), in the amount of \$68,171,740 (Group 7: Hauling of Non-Class B Biosolids, Offsite Class AA Treatment, and Disposal of Class AA Biosolids Produced by any Legal Method), for a five-year term with one, two-year OTR, for a cumulative amount of \$156,254,990.

Approval to exercise the one-year OTR with CompostUSA is recommended due to the significant benefits provided by the vendor, despite the changes in the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) aimed at reducing nutrient migration and protecting water bodies. These regulatory changes have resulted in fewer disposal facilities for biosolids. Consequently, utilities across the state are now competing to secure hauling and disposal allocations, which has driven up prices and limited the number of vendors capable of handling biosolids disposal. For example, under the recently awarded *Contract No. EVN0017499*, the County is paying \$159.13 per ton for biosolid disposal under Group 2 (EPIC) and \$185.36 per ton under Group 7 (MBI). In comparison, CompostUSA charges the County only \$102 per ton, providing an average savings of \$70.41 per ton, or approximately \$5,491,590 in savings per year. CompostUSA is the only vendor in the state that owns its own processing and disposal facilities and has demonstrated its capacity to reliably haul, dispose of, and treat the County's biosolids. Under this contract, CompostUSA handles the removal and disposal of approximately 300 wet tons of biosolids per day through composting (12 loads per day), along with an additional five loads per day for land application, as outlined in the negotiated contract directed by the Board.

To establish a more long-term solution for biosolids disposal at the Central District and North District Wastewater Treatment Plants, a future solicitation will be issued to address biosolid services and potentially replace this contract.

Scope

The scope of this item is countywide in nature.

Delegated Authority

The County Mayor or County Mayor's designee will have the authority to exercise all provisions of the Contract, including any cancellation or extensions, pursuant to Section 2-8.1 of the Miami-Dade County Code and Implementing Order 3-38.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The fiscal impact for the initial one-year term (as amended) expires on December 31, 2025, and has a current allocation of \$16,000,000. If this request is approved, the contract will have a modified cumulative allocation of \$32,000,000 and will expire on December 31, 2026. The requested increase in expenditure authority is based on the originally negotiated pricing and estimated annual quantities during the OTR term.

Department	Existing Allocation	Additional Expenditure Authority for the Option to Renew	Modified Cumulative Allocation	Funding Source	Contract Manager
WASD	\$16,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$32,000,000	Proprietary Funds	Susan Pascul
Total	\$16,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$32,000,000		

Contract Monitor

Manuel Jimenez of the Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) is the Procurement Contracting Manager.

Awarded Vendor

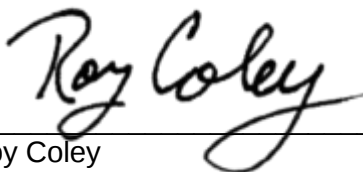
Vendor	Principal Address	Local Address	Principal
CompostUSA of Highlands County, LLC	1650 CR 470 West Okahumpka, FL	None	Kris Creeden

Due Diligence

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-187-12, due diligence was conducted in accordance with SPD's Procurement Guidelines to determine vendor responsibility, including verifying corporate status and that there are no performance and compliance issues through various vendor responsibility lists and a keyword internet search. The lists that were referenced included: convicted vendors, debarred vendors, delinquent contractors, suspended vendors, and federal excluded parties. There were no adverse findings relating to contractor responsibility.

Applicability of Ordinances and Contract Measures

- The two percent User Access Program applies.
- The Small Business Enterprise measures and Local Preference do not apply.
- The Living Wage Ordinance does not apply.



Roy Coley
Chief Utilities and Regulatory Services Officer



MEMORANDUM (Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 16, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(P)(4)

Please note any items checked.

- _____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**
- _____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- _____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- _____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- _____ **Budget required**
- _____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**
- _____ **Statement of social equity required**
- _____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing**
- _____ **No committee review**
- _____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve**
- _____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(P)(4)
7-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-764-25

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD, EXERCISE OF THE ONE-YEAR OPTION TO RENEW WITH ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000,000.00 FOR A TOTAL MODIFIED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$32,000,000.00 FOR CONTRACT NO. BW-10481 FOR HAULING AND DISPOSAL OF CLASS B BIOSOLIDS FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXERCISE ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING ANY CANCELLATION OR EXTENSIONS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-8.1 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND IMPLEMENTING ORDER 3-38

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Pursuant to Resolution No. R-831-24, this Board authorizes, by a majority vote, the exercise of the one-year option to renew for Contract No. BW-10481 for Hauling and Disposal of Class B Biosolids in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.00 for a total modified contract amount of \$32,000,000.00 for the Water and Sewer Department.

Section 2. This Board authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to exercise all provisions of the contract, including any cancellation or extensions, pursuant to section 2-8.1 of the County Code and Implementing Order 3-38.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

SED

Sarah E. Davis