



## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17, 2025

To: Jessica McEachern, Assistant City Manager

From: Chris Harder, P.E. Water Director

Via: Doug Black, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Haven Wynne, Chief Procurement Officer

Subject: Amendment #1 – Emergency Contracts – Village Creek Biosolids Facility Operation

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On April 2, 2025, the Water Department requested approval of emergency expenditures and contract procurement necessary to protect the public's health and safety during the transition from Synagro for operations and maintenance of the biosolids facility and processing and disposal of biosolids. The emergency authorization was approved on April 3, 2025.

Amendment #1 revises the cost estimate for two of the vendors. In the approved memorandum, the cost estimate for Renda Environmental to set up temporary belt presses, perform repairs to existing belt presses, clean existing storage tanks, dredge and clean existing storage lagoons, and haul off and dispose of dried and dewatered biosolids was \$10M. With this amendment, that cost estimate increases to \$16M, which necessitates a change order be executed for CSC #63050, the emergency contract with Renda Environmental, Inc, increasing the contract value from \$10M to \$16M. The work to clean the lagoons has not yet been completed, while the petroleum discharge to the Village Creek wastewater plant, which occurred in May 2025, had a significant impact on the biosolids facility, resulting in higher biosolids processing and disposal costs due to the inability to operate the dryer for six weeks from May into June. We anticipate the remaining work assigned to Renda Environmental Inc. can be completed within this revised cost estimate. Please note, the City is in the process of procuring and awarding a competitively procured biosolids hauling contract, with proposals received on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and the intent to award to the best value proposer at the November 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. It is anticipated that the hauling and disposal work activities will be transitioned to this new contract starting in December 2025.

The cost estimate for Automation Nation, Inc. also needs to be increased, from \$500,000 to \$575,000. The need for this adjustment is due to the additional costs associated with SCADA assistance, operations optimization, and operations assistance. Hiring and retaining permanent staff to operate the dryer facility has been challenging, necessitating the increase in the contract value. Following approval of this memo,

the emergency contract with Automation Nation will be modified by change order to increase the contract ceiling by \$75,000.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Harder at 817-392-5020.

APPROVED:

Recommended:

*Christopher Harder*

Christopher Harder (Oct 17, 2025 07:57:31 CDT)

**Chris Harder, P.E., Director, Water Department**

*DB*

Approved as to form and Legality:

Douglas Black (Oct 17, 2025 15:13:06 CDT)

**Douglas W. Black, Sr. Assistant City Attorney**

Approve:

*Haven Wynne*

Haven Wynne (Oct 17, 2025 15:39:57 CDT)

**Haven Wynne, Chief Procurement Officer**

Approve:

*Jesica McEachern*

**Jesica McEachern, Assistant City Manager**



## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 2, 2025

To: Jessica McEachern, Assistant City Manager

From: Chris Harder, P.E. Water Director

Subject: Emergency Procurement of Contracts – Village Creek Biosolids Facility Operation

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The Water Department requests approval of expenditures and contract procurement necessary to protect the public's health and safety during the transition from Synagro to Fort Worth for operations and maintenance of the biosolids facility and processing and disposal of biosolids. This authorization is necessitated by the termination of the contract with Synagro, the operator of the biosolids facility (CSC 53332), authorized by City Council on March 25, 2025 (M&C 25-0281). The agreement formally terminating the contract was fully executed on March 29, 2025 (CSC 5332-SIT1) and provides one week for the transition period with formal handover being April 4, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

Full operational and maintenance responsibilities are being assumed by Fort Worth starting at midnight of April 4<sup>th</sup>, making April 5<sup>th</sup> the first day of operations. As of that date, the City's Water Department will assume the duties for the plant's operations include the following:

- Staffing for the operation and maintenance of the existing belt press and dryer facility
- Processing and disposal of all biosolids received from the Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility (VCWRF)
- Hauling off and disposal of all biosolids currently stockpiled on site
- Cleaning existing residual ponds and storage tanks
- Equipment condition assessments and repairs
- Assumption of air permit and air permitting compliance activities

Processing and disposal of biosolids is an activity that falls under both state and federal regulations and regulatory oversight. Biosolids are received from the VCWRF continuously, so continuity of operations during this transition must be achieved in order to avoid excursions which could subject the City to regulatory penalties and to protect the public health and safety. It is imperative that the City quickly put into place agreements that can be used to process and dispose of biosolids in accordance with state regulations.

Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-9 of the City of Fort Worth's Code of Ordinances and Section 252.022 of the Texas Local Government Code govern emergency expenditures or those exempt from public bidding requirements that are necessary to preserve or protect public health or safety of the municipality's residents. Specifically, City Code at Section 2-9(d)(9) defines an emergency procurement as one made to protect the public health or safety of the city's residents and Texas Local Government Code exempts from public bidding procurements necessary to preserve or protect the public health and safety of the municipality's residents (252.022(a)(2)).

City staff have reached out to vendors currently under contract with Synagro, contractors familiar with the operation and maintenance of the existing assets, and contractors familiar with biosolids regulations, to quickly put into place agreements to assist Fort Worth during this transitional period. The following agreements are recommended to be executed, each in an "up to" amount:

Company Name	Scope of Work	Cost Estimate
Renda Environmental, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setup and operation of temporary belt presses</li> <li>• Repairs to existing belt presses</li> <li>• Cleaning of existing tanks</li> <li>• Dredging and cleaning existing residuals ponds</li> <li>• Hauling and disposal of biosolids</li> </ul>	\$10M
Andritz Separation Technologies, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary operations staffing and staff training</li> <li>• Condition assessment of existing assets</li> <li>• Preventive maintenance and repair of assets</li> <li>• Screening equipment rentals</li> </ul>	\$2M
Automation Nation, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary operations/staff training</li> <li>• SCADA and database upgrades and optimization</li> </ul>	\$500,000
Huber Technology, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training and monthly equipment rental</li> </ul>	\$150,000
CVE Technologies, Inc. dba CV Technologies, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Suppression System Inspection, PM, repair</li> </ul>	\$100,000
Ingersoll-Rand Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compressor equipment PMs and repairs</li> </ul>	\$75,000
Cintas Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire system inspections and staff training</li> </ul>	\$15,000
BelWave Communications, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microwave internet connection</li> </ul>	\$20,400
Synagro of Texas-CDR, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of lab equipment and screen auger</li> </ul>	\$85,000

Actual costs associated with these agreements will be based on actual usage, duration, and services provided.

The City will also continue to utilize our engineering consultant (Jacobs) to perform a detailed condition assessment of the existing assets as required to repair those assets that are in poor condition or out of service.

Renda Environmental, Inc. is tasked with not only operating the belt press equipment until such time as the biosolids dryer facility can be returned to operations, but also with removal of materials stockpiled on site and contained within storage ponds. These materials are the root cause for many of the recent odor complaints from neighboring residential communities, so expediting this work is a high priority.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Chris Harder at 817-392-5020.

APPROVED FOR EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT:

Recommended:

Christopher Harder  
Christopher Harder (Apr 2, 2025 15:50 CDT)  
Christopher Harder, Water Director

Approved:

Douglas Black  
Douglas Black (Apr 2, 2025 16:08 CDT)  
Doug Black, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Approve:

Brandy Hazel  
Brandy Hazel, Interim, Chief Procurement Officer

Approve:

Jessica McEachern  
Jessica McEachern (Apr 3, 2025 09:31 CDT)  
Jessica McEachern, Assistant City Manager