

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

April 7, 2025

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Erdman, Vice Chair Faessel, Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Fong-Sakai (teleconference posted location), Lewitt, Luna (entered after the roll call), McMillan, Miller (entered after the roll call), Petersen, and Seckel.

Members absent: Director Crawford.

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location), Katz, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hattar, Nobriga, Parsons, Rubin, and Upadhyay.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for March 10, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-1** Subject: Authorize an increase to a professional services agreement with Grid Subject Matter Experts, LLC for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.245 million for electric transmission planning and North American Electric Reliability Corporation-related electric reliability compliance services; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$1.0 million to a professional services agreement with GridSME for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.245 million for electric transmission planning and NERC-related electric reliability compliance services.

7-2 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Red8 in an amount not to exceed \$850,000 for the implementation of the Data Storage Infrastructure Refresh project; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Red8 in an amount not to exceed \$850,000 for the implementation of the Data Storage Infrastructure Refresh project.

7-3 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Metal Toad Media Inc. for a new fixed cost of \$299,000 per year with a not-to-exceed amount of \$996,200 for the duration of the three-year agreement to host, manage, and maintain Metropolitan's external websites; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Metal Toad Media Inc. for a new fixed cost of \$299,000 per year with a not-to-exceed amount of \$996,200 for the duration of the three-year agreement to host, manage, and maintain Metropolitan's external websites.

7-4 Subject: Authorize an increase of \$3.3 million to an existing agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$4.99 million for final design of a mechanical dewatering facility at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: David Fong, Engineer, Treatment Plant Program Management Team

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$3.3 million to an existing agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$4.99 million for final design of a mechanical dewatering facility at the Jensen plant.

Director Miller entered the meeting room.

Director Luna entered the meeting room.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Erdman
3. Faessel

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

7-5 Subject: Authorize an amendment to a reimbursable agreement with BH Luxury Residences LLC for the relocation of the Santa Monica Feeder within the city of Beverly Hills; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an amendment to a reimbursable agreement with BH Luxury Residences LLC to provide design review and inspection-related activities for the relocation of the Santa Monica Feeder.

Director Bryant made a motion, seconded by Director Seckel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A, and items 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, and 7-5.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Miller, Petersen, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not voting: None

Absent: Director Crawford

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, and 7-5 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-1 Subject: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report and authorize an increase of \$12.4 million to an agreement with La Cañada Design Group Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$16.8 million for final design to upgrade the Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Laboratory

Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Water Quality Section Manager, and Marc Bayan, Engineer, Treatment Plant Program Management Team

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Final Environmental Impact Report and related documentation, and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required and authorize an increase of \$12.4 million to an agreement with La Cañada Design Group Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$16.8 million for final design to upgrade the Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Laboratory.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Dennstedt
3. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Bryant made a motion, seconded by Director Dennstedt, to approve item 8-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Miller, Petersen, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not voting: None

Absent: Director Crawford

The motion for Items 8-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-2 Subject: Annual Infrastructure Resilience Update

Presented by: Ernie Ariza, Facility Planning Team Manager, and Albert
Rodriguez, Principal Engineer, Facility Planning Team

Mr. Ariza and Mr. Rodriguez reported on the following:

- Update on Strategic Infrastructure Resilience Plan (SIRP) Seismic resilience activities
- Plans to continue development of the SIRP & inform CAMP4Water
- Plans to continue improvement of infrastructure seismic resilience

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Luna
3. Ortega
4. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) Quarterly Update

Presented by: Gloria Lai-Bluml, Pure Water Program Management Unit Manager;
Dian Tanuwidjaja, Water Reuse & Process Development Team
Manager; and Elisa Mendez, Principal Public Affairs
Representative.

Ms. Lai-Bluml, Dr. Tanuwidjaja, and Ms. Mendez reported on the following:

- A briefing on status of PWSC
- Plans to continue demonstration testing & preparation of environmental documents, agency agreements & conceptual planning to advance PWSC

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Miller
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Alvarez
5. Armstrong

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- d. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Update
Deferred

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System
Operations Activities

Presented by: John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, Water Resources and
Technical Services

Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Metropolitan received \$15.6 M in U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant funds for Pure Water Southern California
- Update on Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Successful completion of the Colorado River Aqueduct Shutdown
- Collaboration with Department of Water Resources in areas of operations and engineering
- Member Agency Water Quality Managers Meeting on emerging water quality issues

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

A presentation analyzing potential seismic mitigation scenarios.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Schedule panel discussion on fluoride
- Provide a presentation on seismic resiliency for State Water Project facilities

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on May 12, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair