



- **Board of Directors**
One Water and Adaptation Committee

10/14/2025 Board Meeting

7-7

Subject

Authorize on-call agreements with Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. and Rincon Consultants, Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2 million each and ECORP Consulting, Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates in amounts not to exceed \$1 million each, for a maximum of five years for environmental planning services; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Staff's strategy for managing environmental planning work for compliance with state and federal environmental laws and regulations is to rely on in-house environmental planning staff to accomplish the base load of projects, while professional services agreements are selectively utilized to handle projects above this base load or where specialized services are required. This action authorizes five new professional services agreements to provide environmental planning support for Metropolitan projects. The five agreements will be on-call agreements, which are typically used for shorter-term assignments, urgent projects, and projects requiring specialized technical needs or accreditations. The recommended maximum amounts of these agreements are \$2 million each for Helix Environmental Planning Inc. and Rincon Consultants Inc., and \$1 million each for ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates. The maximum duration of these environmental planning services agreements will be five years. See **Attachment 1** for the List of Subconsultants.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize on-call agreements with Helix Environmental Planning Inc. and Rincon Consultants Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2 million each and ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates in amounts not to exceed \$1 million each, for a maximum of five years for environmental planning services.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for the work to be assigned to the consultants under on-call agreements and performed this biennium has been previously authorized. Future costs will be accounted for and appropriated under subsequent biennial budgets. In addition, no work is guaranteed to the consultants under these agreements.

Business Analysis: Contracting with multiple firms provides flexibility and an efficient means for Metropolitan to obtain needed technical services to complete both capital and operations and maintenance projects in accordance with board-adopted schedules.

Option #2

Do not authorize the consulting agreements at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Under this option, Metropolitan staff would request board authorization for agreements on a project-specific basis. This option would forego an opportunity to reduce administrative costs or address urgent projects promptly.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered using project-specific agreements instead of on-call agreements. Project-specific agreements are negotiated for an amount needed to cover a specific project, with agreements over \$250,000 requiring approval by the Board. The current approach of utilizing multiple on-call agreements is recommended to ensure that staff can efficiently execute both planned and unplanned work. On-call agreements allow staff to streamline administrative procedures, reduce costs, and enable projects to move forward without delays associated with executing new agreements.

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter into Contracts.

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Related Board Action / Future Action

Not applicable

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities; personnel-related actions; and/or general policy and procedure making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Metropolitan's environmental planning staff provide environmental analysis, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental document support, and regulatory permitting support for both planned expenditures for capital programs and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) projects. Environmental planning staff's approach for environmental analysis, CEQA support, regulatory permitting, and general environmental planning activities is to use available in-house staff first, with professional consultant services used only where appropriate. This approach maintains a stable, responsive, and experienced in-house workforce and is consistent with Metropolitan's succession planning efforts. However, when resource needs exceed available in-house staffing or require specialized technical expertise, Metropolitan's environmental planning staff uses a combination of project-specific and on-call professional services agreements.

In order to be considered for a consulting agreement, firms are competitively evaluated, resulting in a list of prequalified firms from which both project-specific and on-call agreements are executed as capital and O&M project needs are identified. Project-specific agreements over \$250,000 are approved individually by the Board. By contrast, on-call agreements are multi-year with not-to-exceed amounts and provide a high degree of flexibility to respond to schedule or scope adjustments, allow quicker delivery times, and lower administrative costs for both Metropolitan and the consultants. For these types of agreements, consultants are assigned work only after specific tasks are identified by staff, up to the not-to-exceed amounts of the agreements. The current set of environmental planning on-call agreements will expire in February 2026, and new agreements are needed to ensure uninterrupted environmental planning technical support.

Agreements for Environmental Planning Services – Helix Environmental Planning Inc., Rincon Consultants Inc., ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1402 was issued in April 2025 to establish a pool of qualified consulting firms to provide environmental planning and technical support. The RFQ covered services in four categories: biological resources management, cultural resources management, regulatory permitting and guidance, and general environmental planning services. The consultants submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) for any or all of these four categories. Twenty-seven firms submitted SOQs, which were then evaluated based on qualifications and staff experience, past and ongoing project performance, work methodology, and business outreach. All 27 firms were prequalified to provide environmental planning services. Prequalified firms will be eligible to submit proposals on project-specific agreements within the categories of work for which they were prequalified.

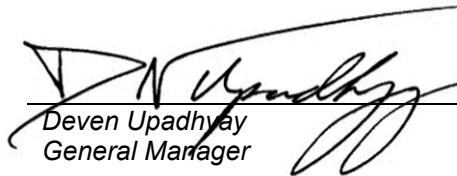
New on-call agreements for environmental planning services are recommended to be awarded at this time to five of the 27 prequalified firms. These firms were selected based on staff's assessment of technical resources needed for both capital and O&M project support over the next several fiscal years. New agreements are recommended with Helix Environmental Planning Inc., Rincon Consultants Inc., ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates. These firms received the highest evaluation scores in specific categories based on the criteria described above. This action authorizes on-call agreements with Helix Environmental Planning, Inc., and Rincon Consultants Inc., in amounts not to exceed \$2 million per agreement and with ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$1 million per agreement. The maximum duration of each agreement will be five years. Staff will return to the Board in the future to authorize additional agreements as needs are identified. Funding for the work to be assigned to the consultants under on-call agreements is available within Metropolitan's capital expenditure plan or O&M budget. No work is guaranteed to the consultants under these agreements. For each of the agreements, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 25 percent of the amount of the agreement. All prequalified firms have committed to meet this level of participation.



Elizabeth Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resilience &
Innovation Officer

10/6/2025

Date



Deven Upadhyay
General Manager

10/6/2025

Date

Attachment 1 – List of Subconsultants

Ref# sri12706267

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subconsultants for Agreement with Dudek**

Subconsultant and Location	Service Category; Specialty
Bargas Environmental Consulting, LLC Sacramento, CA	Cultural Resources Management
Dipodomys Ecological Consulting, LLC Yorba Linda, CA	Biological Resources Management
Endemic Environmental Services Inc. Fullerton, CA	Biological Resources Management
Origin Biological Redlands, CA	Biological Resources Management
Petra Resource Management Tujunga, CA	Cultural Resources Management
Red Tail Environmental Santa Ysabel, CA	Cultural Resources Management
South Environmental LLC Pasadena, CA	Biological Resources Management, Cultural Resources Management, General Environmental Planning Services
Statistical Research Inc. Redlands, CA	Cultural Resources Management

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Subconsultants for Agreement with ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Subconsultant and Location	Service Category; Specialty
KOA/Lochner Orange, CA	Traffic/Transportation
Group Delta Consultants Inc. Riverside, CA	Geology, Hydrology, and Hazards
BurnBot South San Francisco, CA	Wildfire Management

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Subconsultants for Agreement with Environmental Science Associates

Subconsultant and Location	Service Category; Specialty
Artemis Environmental Services Inc. Carlsbad, CA	Field Surveys, Construction Monitoring, Environmental Regulation Guidance and Reporting, Habitat and Restoration Landscape Planning, Mitigation Strategies
Blackhawk Environmental Inc. San Diego, CA	Field Surveys, Construction Monitoring, Environmental Regulation Guidance and Reporting, HCP/NCCP Review Compliance, Reserve and Natural Lands Management
DUKE Cultural Resources Management LLC (DUKE CRM) Irvine, CA	Archaeology, Paleontology, Field Surveys, Construction Monitoring
Kidd Biological Inc. Laguna Hills, CA	Field Surveys, Construction Monitoring
Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers Irvine, CA	Traffic and Transportation
Material Culture Consulting Inc. Pomona, CA	Archaeology
Pax Environmental Inc. Ojai, CA	Archaeology, Paleontology, Field Surveys, Construction Monitoring, Environmental Regulation Guidance, Reporting
Polytechnique Environmental Inc. Bellflower, CA	Sustainable Design
Red Tail Environmental Santa Ysabel, CA	Ethnography and Tribal Resources
Wildscape Restoration Ventura, CA	Habitat and Landscape Restoration Planning, Mitigation Strategies

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Subconsultants for Agreement with Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.

Subconsultant and Location	Service Category; Specialty
Bancroft Construction Services LLC La Jolla, CA	General Biotic and Protocol Surveys, Endangered Species Act Compliance
EcoKai Environmental Inc. Manhattan Beach, CA	Engineering Support, Habitat Restoration Plans, General Biotic Surveys
ENVIRA (Philippe Vergne) Ramona, CA	General Biotic and Protocol Surveys
FIREWISE 2000 LLC Lower Lake, CA	Fire Management, Fuel Modification Plans
Iteris Inc. Los Angeles, CA Santa Ana, CA	Traffic and Transportation
Material Culture Consulting Inc. Pomona, CA	Cultural Resources Surveys, Evaluations, Data Recovery Excavations, Analyses, and Monitoring, Paleontological Resources
Ninyo & Moore Los Angeles, CA	Geology and Soils, Hazardous Materials
Glenn A. Rick Engineering Development Company dba RICK Engineering San Diego, CA	Hydrology and Water Quality, Guidance and Support on Sustainable Design

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Subconsultants for Agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Subconsultant and Location	Service Category; Specialty
Blackhawk Environmental Inc. San Diego, CA	Aquatic Ecology, Biological Resources
Catalyst Environmental Solutions Corporation Santa Monica, CA	Environmental Planning Support
Craftwater Engineering Inc. San Diego, CA	Hydrology and Water Quality, Stormwater, Water Resources Planning
Dipodomys Ecological Consulting LLC Yorba Linda, CA	Desert Wildlife Biology Support
Duke Cultural Resources Management LLC (DUKE CRM) Irvine, CA	Archaeology, Paleontology
Ironwood Consulting Inc. Redlands, CA	Desert Biological Resources, Environmental Compliance
Pax Environmental Inc. Ojai, CA	Archaeology, Paleontology
Sentinel Science Inc. Ojai, CA	Biological Resources, Avian Ecology, Environmental Compliance
South Environmental LLC Pasadena, CA	Archaeology, Built Environment, Paleontology
Surf 2 Snow Environmental Resource Management Inc. San Ramon, CA	Biological Resources, Permitting, Compliance
Terry A. Hayes Associates Inc. Culver City, CA	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise
Tom Dodson and Associates San Bernardino, CA	Environmental Planning Support
Translutions Inc. Tustin, CA	Transportation
VisionScape Imagery Inc. Mission Viejo, CA	Visual Simulations
Westervelt Environmental Solutions Tuscaloosa, AL	Habitat Restoration, Mitigation Banking