



- **Board of Directors**  
***Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee***

6/9/2026 Board Meeting

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7-1

## Subject

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Award a \$698,352.64 contract to Tintometer Inc. to furnish 128 turbidity meters for the Robert A. Skinner and Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

## Executive Summary

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Metropolitan's water treatment plants rely on a conventional treatment process with ozone as the primary disinfectant to deliver finished water to its member agencies. The turbidity meters at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant (Skinner plant) and the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant (Diemer plant) are critical components of the treatment process as they provide continuous monitoring of key water quality criteria. The existing meters at both plants are approaching the end of their service life and require replacement. To ensure regulatory compliance and effective water quality monitoring, staff recommends awarding a procurement contract at this time.

This action awards a \$698,352.64 procurement contract to Tintometer Inc. to furnish 128 turbidity meters for the Skinner and Diemer plants. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, and **Attachment 3** for the Location Map.

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

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### Staff Recommendation: Option #1

#### Option #1

Award a \$698,352.64 contract to Tintometer Inc. to furnish 128 turbidity meters for the Robert A. Skinner and Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plants.

**Fiscal Impact:** Expenditure of \$940,000 in capital funds. All costs will be incurred in the next biennium and have previously been authorized.

**Business Analysis:** This option will ensure treatment process reliability and regulatory compliance at the Skinner and Diemer plants.

#### Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** This option will forego an opportunity to ensure water treatment regulatory compliance and equipment reliability at the Skinner and Diemer plants.

## Alternatives Considered

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Staff considered continuing maintenance of the existing turbidity meters at the Skinner and Diemer plants. However, the lack of available spare parts and the deteriorated condition of the existing meter components have diminished the effectiveness of routine maintenance. The selected alternative to replace the existing 128 turbidity

meters at Skinner and Diemer plants will ensure the continued reliability of the treatment process and maintain regulatory compliance.

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### **Applicable Policy**

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

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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### **Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)**

By Minute Item pending, dated April 13, 2026, the Board appropriated a total of \$1.025 billion for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

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### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

#### **CEQA determination for Option #1:**

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involves the repair and maintenance of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.)

#### **CEQA determination for Option #2:**

None required

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### **Details and Background**

#### **Background**

The Skinner plant was placed into service in 1976 and has a treatment capacity of 350 million gallons per day (mgd). The Diemer plant was placed into service in 1963 with an initial capacity of 200 mgd and was expanded in 1969 to its present capacity of 520 mgd. Both plants deliver a blend of water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project to their member agencies. The Skinner plant is in the city of Winchester, while the Diemer plant is in Yorba Linda.

Within each of Metropolitan's water treatment plants, the supporting water quality monitoring equipment located throughout the plant is used continuously and requires routine replacement to maintain regulatory compliance and treatment reliability goals. The measurement of turbidity in the plant is a key regulatory requirement. After more than ten years of continuous service, the existing turbidity meters at the Skinner and Diemer plants have become obsolete and are increasingly difficult to maintain, as the original equipment manufacturer has ceased producing replacement parts for the currently installed unit models and no longer supports the existing equipment. Staff recommends awarding a procurement contract to replace the turbidity meters at the Skinner and Diemer plants.

#### **Skinner and Diemer Turbidity Meter Replacement – Procurement**

The scope of the procurement contract includes furnishing 128 turbidity meters, including sensors and transmitters with interconnector cables, installation accessories, and spare parts. Staff will perform submittal review, fabrication inspection, and contract administration. Metropolitan forces will receive, offload, and install the turbidity meters during the next available partial plant shutdowns.

A total of \$940,000 is required to perform this work. In addition to the amount of the procurement contract described below, the allocated funds for Metropolitan staff include \$55,000 for inspection and functional testing; \$41,000 for submittals review and responding to manufacturer requests for information; \$29,000 for contract administration and project management; \$54,123 for procurement taxes described below; and \$62,524.36 for the remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds.

***Award of Procurement Contract (Tintometer Inc.)***

Request for bids No. RFB-AS-470807-A for the procurement of 128 turbidity meters for the Skinner and Diemer plants was advertised on March 24, 2026. As shown in **Attachment 2**, four bids were received and opened on April 21, 2026. The low bid from Tintometer Inc. in the amount of \$698,352.64 complies with the requirements of the specifications. Sales and use taxes will be paid directly to the state of California by Metropolitan. As a procurement contract, there are no subcontracting opportunities, and a Small Business Enterprise participation level was not established for this contract. Based on vendor surveys, the budgetary estimate for this material ranged from \$600,000 to \$900,000.

***Project Milestone***

February 2027 – Delivery of the turbidity meters

	5/20/2026
_____ Mai M. Hattar Chief Engineer Engineering Services	Date

	5/20/2026
_____ Shivaji Deshmukh General Manager	Date

**Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds**

**Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids**

**Attachment 3 – Location Map**

Ref# es12707370



**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**  
**Abstract of Bids Received on April 21, 2026, at 11:00 A.M.**  
**RFB-AS-470807-A**  
**Skinner and Diemer Plant Turbidity Meter Upgrade**

The contract includes furnishing 128 turbidity meters, including sensors and transmitters with interconnector cables, installation accessories, and spare parts.

**Budgetary range estimate:** \$600,000 to \$900,000

<b>Bidder and Location</b>	<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Tintometer Inc. Sarasota, FL</b>	<b>\$698,352.64</b>
Hach Company Loveland, CO	\$764,469.12
Reliable Water Solutions LLC <sup>2</sup> Grand Terrace, CA	\$1,027,959.04
Core & Main LP <sup>2</sup> Santa Ana, CA	\$1,063,168.00

<sup>1</sup> Sales and use taxes will be paid directly to the state of California by Metropolitan. As a procurement contract, there are no subcontracting opportunities.

<sup>2</sup> Reliable Water Solutions LLC and Core & Main LP are deemed non-responsive because bid bonds were not received.

# Distribution System

