



- **Board of Directors**
Organization, Personnel and Effectiveness Committee

11/18/2025 Board Meeting

8-3

Subject

Authorize an agreement with Securitas to provide security guard services for a maximum period of five years at a total cost not to exceed \$84 million; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan has an obligation to safeguard its critical infrastructure to ensure the provision of safe and reliable water supplies. Metropolitan has historically utilized a contractor to provide security guards 24 hours per day, seven days per week, to provide around-the-clock, flexible response capabilities. The security services contractor provides their own supervision of contracted staff and guard coverage at 18 major facilities (including Headquarters). Additional roving security patrols during off-hours and at unattended facilities are also provided under this contract.

The existing contract was scheduled to expire at the end of December 2025. Due to delays in the procurement process for a new contract, the Board authorized a six-month time extension of the current security services contract in October to allow Legal and Contract Services time to resolve a protest related to the new contract solicitation. As part of that action, the Board approved an additional \$6 million to fund the extension. It is anticipated that approximately \$300,000 of the revised contract amount will be used to conclude the current contract, and the remaining balance will not be utilized once the new contract is in place.

With the current guard services contract set to expire, a new contract should be approved to provide seamless protection of Metropolitan facilities. This recommended action awards an \$84 million five-year guard services contract to Securitas. It is anticipated that the contract will begin on January 1, 2026, but may commence at a slightly later date based on the actual time it takes to develop and execute the new contract. Securitas is Metropolitan's existing security contractor, and they have been selected for a new contract through a competitive solicitation process. The annual expenditures under this contract will be managed by staff to remain within board-approved fiscal year appropriations.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize an agreement with Securitas to provide security guard services for a maximum period of five years at a total cost not to exceed \$84 million.

Fiscal Impact: The current FY 2025/26 budget includes appropriations of approximately \$12 million for the security services contract. Approval of this agreement would increase the annual appropriation in the FY 2026/27 and FY 2027/28 biennium budget to approximately \$15 million per fiscal year, an increase of approximately \$3 million, which will need to be captured in calendar year 2027 and 2028 rates and charges.

Business Analysis: This option provides flexible guard coverage in a fiscally responsible manner to ensure adequate protection and stewardship of Metropolitan's infrastructure. Furthermore, this recommended option

incorporates contingency provisions to address unforeseen incidents, major events, and other exigent circumstances.

Option #2

Do not award the security guard contract and re-advertise in an attempt to increase the pool of responsive bidders and attain a more favorable contract.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown

Business Analysis: This option may or may not result in a lower bid and may require a short-term extension of the current contract.

Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

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

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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

By Minute Item 52176, dated November 10, 2020, the Board authorized entering into an agreement with Securitas to provide security services for a five-year contract for a maximum payable total of \$55 million, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

On October 14, 2025, the Board authorized an extension to June 30, 2026, on the existing 5-year contract with Securitas to provide security guard services; and authorized an increase of \$6 million in funding for the contract to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$61 million, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-3 board letter.

The six-month extension of the current security services contract was meant to provide Legal and Contract Services time to resolve a protest related to the new contract solicitation. As part of that action, the Board approved an additional \$6 million to fund the extension. Now that the protest has been resolved and the new contract is ready for award, the extension will no longer be necessary. Approximately \$300,000 of the previously approved funds will be used to conclude the current contract, and the remaining balance will be cancelled and not expended in connection with the new contract award.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it will not result in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(a)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Metropolitan owns and operates critical water infrastructure throughout Southern California. America's Water Infrastructure Act was enacted in April 2018. It required a comprehensive risk assessment and a robust Emergency Response Plan for all critical drinking water infrastructure facilities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the lead regulatory agency for water security, developed rigorous compliance benchmarks that were due March 2020 (for the risk component) and September 2020 (for the Emergency Response Plan).

AWIA requires Metropolitan to update this assessment every five years. Metropolitan completed its second five-year update of the risk assessment in April 2025. This assessment update is a key step in safeguarding our

water system and ensuring the continued safety and reliability of our services. In addition, the first five-year update of the Emergency Response Plan which details how Metropolitan plans to respond to the threats identified in the Risk and Resilience Assessment was completed in September 2025. The Office of Safety, Security & Protection, Security Management Unit and other key stakeholders led the effort to complete the risk component and Emergency Response Plan prior to the EPA deadlines. Staff collaboratively met all regulatory objectives and used an outside consultant to incorporate an all-hazards mitigation and planning strategy.

In addition to the EPA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security provides guidance and oversight for water utilities to protect critical water infrastructure. Both agencies stress the benefits provided by a professional guard force for controlling access, patrolling, and responding to incidents. Further, Metropolitan's ability to protect its employees and facilities-and to adjust its response to changing threats-requires the flexibility and specialization available only through contracted guard services, which can access on-call emergency staffing and specialized capabilities on short notice.

In order to provide around-the-clock, flexible response capabilities, security guard services have been secured independent of Metropolitan's workforce for decades. The security services include their own supervision and guard coverage at 18 major facilities (including Headquarters), and additional roving security patrols during off-hours and at unattended facilities. The guards facilitate access for employees, verify access for contractors and vendors, and observe and report any threats, intrusion attempts, or other emergencies. In addition, Metropolitan uses the guard service to staff the Security Watch Center and continuously monitor Metropolitan's system-wide electronic security system. This contracted service allows trained security staff to respond to threats without diverting water treatment plant and system operators from their core operational responsibilities.

The contract guard service provides Metropolitan maximum flexibility to close guard posts in areas where they are no longer needed or create new ones in conjunction with changing site conditions or threats. The guard service also provides a surge capacity of up to 20 percent more staff (40 guards) within 24 hours of any emergency request, thereby assuring capacity to rapidly augment protection to meet emergency demands.

In July 2025, staff issued a two-step request for bids for security services at all Metropolitan facilities (RFB No. 459392). The first step in the process prequalified vendors that would ultimately be allowed to provide bids for these services. Five firms were prequalified, and Metropolitan received three (3) responsive bids to the solicitation. Securitas offered the lowest responsive bid of \$15.56 million per year for a five-year contract, amounting to a base price for the five-year period of \$77.82 million.

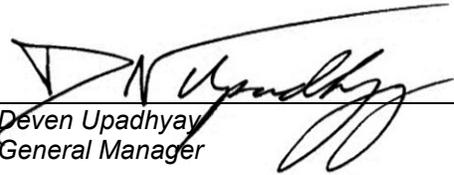
The base yearly bid amount of \$15.56 million for the new contract includes regularly scheduled guard shifts and fixed posts, budgeted supplemental coverage for shutdowns or other events, vehicles, and equipment. The total not-to-exceed amount of \$84 million also includes a contingency provision of approximately \$6 million to accommodate unforeseeable security coverage for maintenance and repairs and the flexibility to immediately increase security personnel, as needed, in an effort to mitigate climbing crime levels, trespassing issues, major events, and emergencies throughout the service area. The contingency amount also takes additional requirements into account, such as guard union wage increases, minimum wage increases in the State of California, and changes in the position of personnel in the different counties. Staff will determine how and when contingency funds are utilized via separate task orders to the contractor.

This action awards a five-year agreement to Securitas for a total cost not to exceed \$84 million. A five-year term is recommended because this approach is more efficient and cost-effective than rebidding after a shorter term of two or three years. Metropolitan retains the right under the agreement to cancel the contract at any time in any year.



Gonzalo Barriga
Group Manager,
Safety, Security & Protection Officer

11/6/2025
Date



Deven Upadhyay
General Manager

11/6/2025
Date

Ref# OSSP12708786