

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

July 12, 2022

Chair Smith called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Chair Smith, Directors Apodaca (entered after roll call), Blois, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, Morris, and Peterson (entered after roll call)

Members absent: Directors Repenning and Williams

Other Board members present: Directors Abdo, Atwater, Dennstedt, Erdman, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, McCoy, Miller, Pressman, Record, Sutley and Tamaribuchi

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Hagekhalil, Okano, Parsons, and Yamasaki

#### **1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

None

Director Apodaca entered the meeting

Director Peterson entered the meeting

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee held June 13, 2022

Director Apodaca left the meeting

#### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- 7-1 Subject: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to include the replacement of an expansion joint on the Upper Feeder at the Santa Ana River Bridge; and determine that there is a need to continue the emergency action of executing a no-bid contract for the expansion joint replacement (Requires four-fifths vote of the Board); the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

- Motion:
- a. Amend the current CIP to include planning and implementation of infrastructure projects to replace an expansion joint on the Upper Feeder; and
  - b. Determine that there is a need to continue the emergency action of executing a no-bid contract for installation of a new expansion joint on the Upper Feeder. **(Requires four-fifths vote of the Board.)**

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Blois

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- 7-2 Subject: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action has been previously addressed in the certified 2015 Final EIR, related CEQA actions, and Addendum No. 3; and award \$25,972,700 contract to Mladen Buntich Construction Company, Inc. for Stage 3 rehabilitation of the Etiwanda Pipeline

- Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action has been previously addressed in the certified 2015 Final EIR, related CEQA actions and Addendum No. 3, and
- a. Award \$25,972,700 contract to Mladen Buntich Construction Company, Inc. to replace a portion of the interior lining of the Etiwanda Pipeline.

- 7-3 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for a not-to-exceed amount of \$700,000 to perform final design of security upgrades at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

- Motion: Authorize an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$700,000 to perform final design for security upgrades at the Jensen plant.

No presentations were given, Director De Jesus made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Blois, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Smith

Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Directors Apodaca, Repenning and Williams

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Update on Drought Initiatives for State Water Dependent Areas  
Presented by: John Shamma, Section Manager, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Shamma reported on the following:

The effort to address impact of the drought on State Water Project dependent areas

- Decision-making process-
  - Comprehensive workshop process
  - Implementing near-term projects
  - Planning long-term solutions
  - Recommendations to Board
- East-side upcoming contract awards
- West-side ongoing studies
- Possible solutions:
  - Surface and groundwater storage
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Agreements and exchanges
  - Flexibility programs and conservation
- Develop portfolio and test action plan against the IRP
- Return to Board with recommended actions including August 2022 commitment to action letter.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Blois
3. Lefevre
4. Sutley
5. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

## 7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a.           Subject:            Water System Operations Manager's Report  
Presented by:        Brent Yamasaki, Water System Operations, Group Manager

Mr. Yamasaki reported on the following:

- Current operating conditions
- Adapting operations to minimize SWP water use, despite Upper Feeder constraints
- Preparing for September Upper Feeder shutdown, including collaborating with member agencies on conservation messaging
- Celebrating National Safety Month with safety awareness events
- Publication of the Annual 2022 Water Quality Report

- b.           Subject:            Engineering Services Manager's Report  
Presented by:        John Bednarski, Engineering Services Group, Chief Engineer and Group Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Construction and procurement contracts
- Update on Casa Loma siphon project
- Update on Skinner Paving Project
- Update on Pure Water Project: early start and delivery opportunities
- Internship Program

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Director's comments or questions.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Tim Smith  
Chair