

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

April 8, 2024

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho (entered after roll call), Dennstedt, Erdman, Gualtieri, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan (entered after roll call), Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Faessel and Fong-Sakai

Other board members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Armstrong (AB 2449 “just cause”), Dick, Gray (teleconference posted location) and Ortega.

Director Armstrong indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Carter, Chapman, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Kuo-Britton, Parsons, S. Perez, Upadhyay, and Wheeler

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

Director Camacho entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for March 11, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

Director McMillan entered the meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

Directors Erdman and Miller recused themselves on Item 7-1 as they both own stock in the vendor Agilent Technologies. Director Erdman and Miller left the meeting during 7-1 discussion.

- 7-1 Subject:** Certify the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program and take related CEQA actions; and award three procurement contracts to furnish water quality equipment for Metropolitan's Water Quality Laboratory: (1) a \$1,512,882 contract to Agilent Technologies to furnish two gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer units and two gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry/solid phase microextraction units; (2) a \$726,432 contract to SCIEX to furnish one liquid chromatograph-mass spectrometer unit; and (3) a \$665,441 contract to Thermo Fisher Scientific to furnish four ion chromatograph
- Presented by:** Steve Burkhead, Team Manager-Program Management, Engineering Services Group
Paul Rochelle, Section Manager-Water Quality, Treatment Water Quality Group
- Motion:**
- a. Certify that the Final PEIR for upcoming projects at the Weymouth plant has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Final PEIR; certify that the Final PEIR reflects Metropolitan's independent judgment and analysis; and adopt the Findings, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.
 - b. Award three procurement contracts to furnish water quality compliance laboratory equipment for Metropolitan's Water Quality Laboratory, as follows:
 - (1) A \$1,512,882 contract to Agilent Technologies to furnish two GC-MS units and two GC-MS/solid phase microextraction units.
 - (2) A \$726,432 contract to SCIEX to furnish one LC-MS unit.
 - (3) A \$665,441 contract to Thermo Fisher Scientific to furnish four ion chromatography units.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Dick

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Directors Erdman and Miller entered the meeting.

7-2 Subject: Authorize an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3 million for final design to rehabilitate a portion of the Sepulveda Feeder; and adopt the CEQA determination that the Sepulveda Feeder rehabilitation project was previously addressed in the certified 2017 Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Rehabilitation Program

Presented by: Cathy Chau, Pr. Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that final design of the Sepulveda Feeder rehabilitation project is within the scope of the certified 2017 Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Rehabilitation Program and authorize a new agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3 million for final design to rehabilitate PCCP portions of the Sepulveda Feeder.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Bryant
3. Smith
4. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7-3 Subject: Authorize an increase of \$1,100,000 to an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1,735,000 for final design services to replace the 2.4 kV power line that serves the Black Metal Mountain Communications Site; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Santiago Ocampo, Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Authorize an increase to an existing agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,735,000 for design services for the Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Power Upgrades project.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Erdman
3. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7-4 Subject: Award a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. to implement security system improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant; the General Manager has determined that this proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Cathy Lou, Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Award a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. to implement security improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant.

Director Lefevre left the meeting.

Vice Chair Camacho conducted consent roll call vote.

After completion of the presentations, Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Bryant to approve item 2A, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Gualtieri, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: Directors Erdman and Miller on item 7-1

Absent: Directors Faessel, Lefevre, and Fong-Sakai

The motion for Items 2A, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

The motion for Item 7-1 passed by vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 2 not voting and 3 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-1 Subject: Appropriate \$636.48 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26 and authorize the General Manager to initiate or proceed with work on capital projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Tom Campbell, Unit Manager, Engineering Services Group
James Hong, Team Manager-Capital Investment Plan, Engineering Services Group

- Motion:
- a. Appropriate \$636.48 million for projects identified in the CIP Appendix for FYs 2024/25 and 2025/26; and
 - b. Authorize the General Manager to initiate or continue work on the capital projects described in the CIP Appendix for FYs 2024/25 and 2025/26, subject to any limits on the General Manager's authority and CEQA requirements.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Erdman
3. Dennstedt
4. Alvarez
5. Peterson
6. Seckel
7. Gualtieri

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Petersen left the meeting.
Director Lefevre entered the meeting.

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Peterson to approve item 8-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Gualtieri, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Faessel, Fong-Sakai and Petersen

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Rehabilitation of the Colorado River Aqueduct
- Presented by: Silvia Perez, Assistant Group Manager, Conveyance & Distribution Group
- Ish Singh, Team Manager-Program Management, Engineering Services Group

Ms. Perez reported on the following:

- Major Components of the CRA
- CRA Conveyance System is 242 total miles
- CRA is the primary source during limited SWP supplies
- CRA Shutdowns and Maintenance Activities
- Tunnel, Canal & Siphon Cleaning
- High Voltage Equipment Testing
- Power Line Maintenance and Repairs
- Maintenance of Diversion Dikes
- CRA Quagga Mussel Control

Mr. Singh reported on the following:

- CRA Reliability Program initiated in 2002
- Maintain CRA System & identify long-term rehabilitation needs
- Completed projects – New Radial Gate, New Steel Power Pole, Coupling Assembly and Iron Mountain Reservoir & Canal Liner Replacement
- Projects in Construction – New Slab over CRA and New Overhead Crane – expected completion in 2024
- Projects in Design – Water Treatment System Replacement – expected to be completed in 2025 and the Flow Monitoring Stations – expected completion 2024 –
- Other Design projects include Discharge Structure, Wastewater Line, Generator Building, Electrical Building and CRA Transformers
- Total Planned Expenditures FY2024/25 – 2034/35 \$560 million

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Smith
2. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Desert Housing Community Planning
- Presented by: Gonzalo Barriga, Chief Safety Security Officer, Office of the
General Manager
Scott Jordan, Consultant from Zivatos

Mr. Barriga reported on the following:

- Housing is provided to district staff due to remoteness and timely response to emergencies.
- 109 total houses in CRA system (69 refurbished)
- Temporary lodging & kitchen facilities provided for short term assignments
- Preliminary design for replacement of single-family residence plans completed September 2022
- Community planner hired summer of 2023
- Create a financially resilient & socially sustainable 75-year desert village strategy and safe and healthy villages
- Maintain housing for all current employees

Mr. Jordan reported on the following:

- Baseline Condition: Hinds 15 single family homes, Eagle 20 single family homes, Iron Mtn. 33 single family homes and Gene 37 single family homes – four Villages with single family homes & various amenities
- Community Input – 54 total participants (82% participation level)
- Maintain housing for current employees
- Consolidating villages and testing new housing models
- Single family homes at all 4 sites \$212M - Two Villages \$113M & Three Villages \$142M
- Draft Report in April 2024
- Continue discussions with Executive Management and Labor Unions
- Final Report in May 2024
- Present final findings to the Board Summer of 2024

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Smith
2. Dennstedt
3. Seckel
4. Camacho
5. Armstrong
6. Dick

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Engineering Services
 Information Technology
 Water System Operations Activities
Presented by: Deven Upadhyay, Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager-
 Water Resources
 Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager Operations

Mr. Upadhyay reported on the following:

- Thanked all the employees involved in the CRA shutdown.

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- There is a potential leak on the Santa Monica Feeder in Beverly Hills that staff are currently working on. Traffic on Santa Monica boulevard will be impacted.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Report from Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

Nothing to report.

- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

Nothing to report.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on May 13, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair