

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**January 13, 2025**

Chair Erdman called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present: Chair Erdman, Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, McMillan (entered after roll call), Miller, Morris, Petersen, and Seckel.

Members absent: Director Crawford.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Cordero, DeJesus, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Goldberg, Gray, Katz, Kurtz, Luna, Ortega, Phan, Pressman, Ramos, and Sutley.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hattar, Martinez, Parsons, Rubin, and Upadhyay

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

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for December 9, 2024.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

- 7-1** Subject: Authorize an increase of \$5.55 million to an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$7.55 million for final design to rehabilitate the finished water reservoirs at the Henry J. Mills and Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$5.55 million to an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$7.55 million for final design to rehabilitate the finished water reservoirs at the Henry J. Mills and Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plants.

Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Seckel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-1 option 1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Petersen, and Seckel.  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None.  
Not voting: None  
Absent: Directors Crawford and McMillan.

The motion passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS ACTION**

None

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chair Erdman recused himself for presentation and discussion for 9-2. Vice Chair Camacho stepped in.

**9-2** Subject: Update on the Colorado River Aqueduct High-Voltage Transformers Replacement Project  
Presented by: Patrizia Hall, Sr Engineer, C&D Program Management, Engineering Services Group

Ms. Hall reported on the following topics and themes:

- CRA High Voltage Transformers Replacement Project Update
- Construction sequencing, installation plan, update on negotiations, and overview of cost and schedule
- Plan to replace 35 transformers across all five desert pumping plants
- Admin Code 8510 was used to procure the transformers under a “best value” approach: qualifications, technical ability, guaranteed performance, contract terms and condition, and delivery schedule
- Staff plans to finalize contract negotiations with Siemens to achieve overall best value

- Plan to return to the Board in Spring 2025 to award a procurement contract

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1 Miller
- 2 Lefevre

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

McMillan entered the meeting.

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Update on Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Program  
Presented by: Tom Campbell, Unit Manager, C&D Program Management,  
Engineering Services Group

Mr. Campbell reported on the following topics and themes:

- Staff implemented the PCCP Rehabilitation program to manage the risk of aging PCCP lines.
- PCCP management strategy includes regular inspection, repair of distressed segments, and planning and executing long-term rehabilitation.
- The north reaches of the Sepulveda Feeder must be relined before the second stage of the Sepulveda Pump Station project is put into service.
- Program budget and schedule

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1 Fong Sakai
- 2 Seckel
- 3 Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Invasive Mussels in the State Water Project
- Presented by: Ying Wu, Team Manager, Reservoir Management Team,  
Treatment & Water Quality Group
- Ms. Wu reported on the following topics and themes:
- Metropolitan’s quagga mussel control program for the CRA
  - Discovery of quagga mussels in West Branch of State Water Project and operational impacts
  - Discovery of new invasive golden mussels in the Delta and State Water Project
  - Next steps in Metropolitan’s overall management of invasive mussels

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1 Dick

Staff responded to the Director’s questions and comments.

- c. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Update [Conference with Metropolitan Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology, Jacob Margolis, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)]
- Presented by: Closed Session Presentation

## 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Engineering Services activities  
Information Technology activities  
Water System Operations activities
- Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Assistant General Manager, Water Resources and Technical Services  
Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Staff will update Committee on development of tariffs

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Current operating conditions including modest increase in SWP allocation to 15% allocation
- Efforts to maintain reliable operations at Garvey Reservoir with deteriorating cover at end of its useful life
- Metropolitan’s emergency response to wildfires; detailed report will be provided in February

**8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a. There was no discussion or direction to the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance.

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair