



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

2/10/2026 Board Meeting

7-1

Subject

Award a \$767,063 construction contract to Western Pump Inc. for a new 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel storage tank and dispensing system at Metropolitan's Lake Mathews facility; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan's Lake Mathews facility houses operations and district force construction staff, who use diesel fuel stored on-site for day-to-day operations and emergency responses. The facility's original storage tank was removed from service in 2016, and a smaller temporary tank has been used since then. A new 6,000-gallon tank will provide sufficient capacity to support routine operation and emergency responses, and eliminate the need for frequent refueling of the storage tank.

This action awards a \$767,063 construction contract to Western Pump Inc. for the procurement and installation of a new aboveground diesel fuel tank and fuel dispensing system at Lake Mathews. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, **Attachment 3** for the List of Subcontractors, and **Attachment 4** for the Location Map.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Award a \$767,063 construction contract to Western Pump Inc. for procurement and installation of a new 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank and dispensing system at the Lake Mathews facility.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$1.16 million in capital funds. Approximately \$1 million in capital funds will be incurred in the current biennium and have been previously authorized. The remaining capital expenditures will be funded from the next capital investment plan budget.

Business Analysis: Installation of a new diesel storage tank will restore full operational and emergency response capabilities at Lake Mathews.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Staff would continue to use a temporary rental tank to meet diesel fuel needs at Lake Mathews.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered continuing to utilize the 3,000-gallon rental tank currently located at Lake Mathews within the existing fuel island in lieu of installing a permanent, Metropolitan-owned tank. However, this alternative does not provide adequate fuel storage for emergency response situations. In January 2025, when responding to the Eaton

Fire, the rental tank's capacity of 3,000 gallons was not sufficient to continue fueling Metropolitan's heavy construction equipment and portable generators for Member Agency support during Metropolitan's fire response operations. Additional fuel was procured to meet demands during the emergency conditions.

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

Metropolitan Water District Operating Policy A-06: Emergency Management and Business Continuity

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

By Minute Item 53598, dated April 9, 2024, the Board appropriated a total of \$630 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

By Minute Item pending, dated October 14, 2025, the Board appropriated an additional \$30 million for projects identified in the CIP for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing the biennial CIP appropriation to \$666.48 million.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involves the operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Furthermore, the proposed action consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. (State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15302.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Lake Mathews is located in Riverside and is the terminus reservoir for the Colorado River Aqueduct. The Lake Mathews facility houses operations and district force construction staff. Heavy construction equipment is stored at the Lake Mathews facility. Metropolitan forces use diesel fuel stored in an on-site storage tank for daily operations and emergency response. According to Metropolitan Operating Policy A-06, Metropolitan must maintain adequate personnel, materials, and equipment to repair two simultaneous pipeline failures. To support emergency preparedness, adequate diesel fuel must be stored on-site at Lake Mathews for day-to-day operations and a reserve amount for potential emergency response.

A 10,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank was installed at the Lake Mathews facility nearly thirty-five years ago. After a 2016 inspection by Metropolitan staff identified numerous deficiencies, the tank was removed from service. In the interim, the Lake Mathews facility has relied upon temporary fueling options and is currently using a 3,000-gallon rental tank to provide fuel for large heavy construction equipment. This smaller tank, however, must be frequently refilled, and does not offer enough reserve storage for an emergency backup supply.

A new 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank is recommended for the Lake Mathews facility. The storage volume of 6,000 gallons for the new tank was determined based on a review of historical fuel demands and emergency storage needs. Final design to procure and install a new 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank is complete. Staff recommends proceeding with the installation of the new tank and fueling system.

Lake Mathews Aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank – Construction

The scope of the construction contract includes procurement and installation of a 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank, fuel dispensing system, electrical tie-ins, instrumentation and controls, and safety features for the fuel island.

A total of \$1.16 million is required for this work. In addition to the construction contract, allocated funds for Metropolitan staff activities include \$116,000 for construction management and inspection; \$19,000 for Metropolitan forces for startup activities; \$110,000 for engineering construction support, submittal review, commissioning, and record drawings; \$97,000 for contract administration, environmental support, project controls, and project management; and \$50,937 for remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds.


Award of Construction Contract (Western Pump Inc.)

Specifications No. 2055A for Lake Mathews Aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement was advertised for bids on November 5, 2025. As shown in **Attachment 2**, four bids were received and opened on December 18, 2025. The low bid from Western Pump Inc., in the amount of \$767,063, complies with the requirements of the specifications. The other bids ranged from \$968,526 to \$1,255,000, while the engineer's estimate for this project was \$995,000. For this contract, Metropolitan established a Small Business Enterprise participation level of at least 25 percent of the contract amount. Western Pump Inc. has agreed to meet this level of participation. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**.

Metropolitan staff will perform construction management and inspection. Engineering Services' performance metric target range for construction management and inspection of projects with construction less than \$3 million is 12 to 15 percent. For this project, the performance metric goal for inspection is 14.8 percent of the total construction cost. The total cost of construction for this project is \$786,063 which includes the construction contract (\$767,063) and Metropolitan construction (\$19,000).

Project Milestone

Winter 2026/27 – Completion of construction

	1/21/2026
Mai M. Hattar	Date
Chief Engineer	
Engineering Services	

	1/21/2026
Shivaji D. Deshmukh	Date
General Manager	

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds**Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids****Attachment 3 – Subcontractors****Attachment 4 – Location Map**

Ref# es12689254

Allocation of Funds for Lake Mathews Reservoir Aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement

	Current Board Action (February 2026)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	\$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	97,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	110,000
Construction Inspection	116,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	19,000
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	-
Professional/Technical Services	-
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	-
Western Pumps Inc.	767,063
Remaining Budget	50,937
Total	\$ 1,160,000

The total amount expended to date is approximately \$1.01 million. The total estimated cost to complete the procurement and installation of the new diesel fuel tank, including the amount appropriated to date, and construction costs as part of this action, is anticipated to be approximately \$2.17 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Abstract of Bids Received on December 18, 2025, at 2:00 P.M.

Specifications No. 2055A

Lake Mathews Reservoir Aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement

The work includes procurement and installation of an aboveground 6,000-gallon diesel fuel storage tank, fuel dispensing system, electrical tie-ins, instrumentation and controls, abatement of items containing lead, and other appurtenant work.

Engineer's estimate: \$995,000

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE \$	SBE %	Met SBE¹
Western Pump Inc. San Diego, CA	\$767,063	\$192,000	25%	Yes
GEMS Environmental Mgmt. Svcs. Inc. Concord, CA	\$968,526	-	-	-
Fleming Environmental Inc. Fullerton, CA	\$1,149,834	-	-	-
MMC Inc. La Palma, CA	\$1,255,000	-	-	-

¹ Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level established at 25 percent for this contract.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subcontractors for Low Bidder****Specifications No. 2055A****Lake Mathews Reservoir Aboveground Diesel Fuel Tank Replacement****Low bidder: Western Pumps Inc.**

Subcontractor	Service Category; Specialty
SMH Electrical Construction Riverside, CA	Electrical Installation and Demolition
JJ&S Environmental Services Inc Vista, CA	Lead Abatement
CT Concrete Cutting Inc. Murrieta, CA	Concrete Demolition
Hill Crane Service Inc. Long Beach, CA	Crane Services

