



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

7/14/2026 Board Meeting

8-1

Subject

Award a \$16,525,536 contract to Wood Bros Inc. to construct a wetland on Webb Tract; and authorize a \$1,988,400 agreement with MBK Engineers to provide construction management services; an increase of \$864,000 to an existing agreement with Environmental Science Associates for a new not-to-exceed total of \$1,844,000 for environmental monitoring; an increase of \$260,000 to an existing agreement with GEI Consultants Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$1,760,000 for technical support; an increase of \$145,000 to an existing agreement with HydroFocus Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$600,000 for scientific monitoring; and an increase of \$100,000 to an existing agreement with J.A. Spezia Consulting for a new not-to-exceed total of \$300,000 for public outreach and tribal coordination; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan is advancing a wetland restoration project on Webb Tract in Contra Costa County, which is partially funded by a grant from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy). The project creates a large-scale, multi-benefit wetland mosaic on the deeply subsided Delta Island as a nature-based solution to reduce peat oxidation and reverse subsidence, promote carbon sequestration, support sustainable long-term land management, and provide high-quality habitat for wildlife. Designed, permitted, and brought to bid on an accelerated timeline of approximately two years, the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project is now ready to award contracts to begin construction.

This action awards a \$16,525,536 construction contract to Wood Bros Inc. to construct a wetland on Webb Tract. It also authorizes one new agreement and three agreement amendments to support the project's construction. See **Attachment 1** for Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, **Attachment 3** for the List of Subcontractors, **Attachment 4** for the List of Subconsultants, **Attachment 5** for the Location Map, and **Attachment 6** for the Webb Tract Resolution.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

- Award a \$16,525,536 contract to Wood Bros Inc. to construct a wetland on Webb Tract;
- Award a \$1,988,400 agreement with MBK Engineers to provide construction management services;
- Authorize an increase of \$864,000 to an existing agreement with Environmental Science Associates for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,844,000 for environmental monitoring;
- Authorize an increase of \$260,000 to an existing agreement with GEI Consultants Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$1,760,000 for technical support;
- Authorize an increase of \$145,000 to an existing agreement with HydroFocus Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$600,000 for scientific monitoring; and
- Authorize an increase of \$100,000 to an existing agreement with J.A. Spezia Consulting for a new not-to-exceed total of \$300,000 for public outreach and tribal coordination.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$23,500,000 in capital funds, of which \$13,764,567 will be reimbursed by a grant from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Approximately \$21,200,000 will be incurred in the current biennium. The remaining capital expenditure will be funded from future Capital Investment Plan budgets.

Business Analysis: This option will take advantage of significant funding from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, resulting in significant financial benefits through the generation and sale of carbon credits.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: This option will forego opportunities to leverage state funding to construct the wetland and to generate revenue from carbon credits resulting from emissions reductions realized from the constructed wetlands.

Alternatives Considered

Staff evaluated several agricultural alternatives for the island. The first option was to continue corn cultivation. However, with maximum projected revenues of \$120,000 per year, corn production fell short of the Board's adopted financial-stability goals. The second option involved converting all existing farmland to rice. Because the island's topography varies significantly, full conversion would require extensive and costly land leveling. Staff therefore identified only those agricultural areas with naturally flatter terrain, where leveling could be completed more cost-effectively, as suitable for potential rice production.

The selected option to construct a large-scale wetland project utilized existing topography to maximize wetted land, reverse subsidence on the island, and increase carbon sequestration in the wetlands, which can be used to generate additional revenue from the sale of carbon credits or to meet Metropolitan's Climate Action plan goals.

Applicable Policy

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

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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

By Minute 53012, dated October 11, 2022, the Board adopted the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies.

By Minute 53254, dated May 9, 2023, the Board adopted a resolution to support an approximately \$20.9 million grant application to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy to develop a multi-benefit landscape opportunity on Webb Tract, and authorized the General Manager to accept the grant if awarded.

By Minute 53406, dated October 10, 2023, the Board amended the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include development of a multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract and authorized two professional service agreements to prepare design plans and environmental documentation.

By Minute Item 54446, dated April 13, 2026, the Board appropriated a total of \$1.025 billion for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

On July 22, 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued its concurrence that the project qualified as a statutory exemption for a restoration project (SERP). On July 24, 2025, the General Manager determined the project to be statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.56, and a notice of exemption was filed. The current board action does not result in any substantial change to the project. Accordingly, no further CEQA determinations or documentation are necessary.

The proposed action is statutorily exempt from CEQA because it is a wildlife restoration project that meets all requirements for a SERP:

- (a) Project is to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend,
- (b) Project is to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife,
- (c) Project may have incidental public benefits,
- (d) Project results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery,
- (e) Project includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment, and
- (f) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Webb Tract, one of the five Metropolitan-owned islands located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, was purchased in 2016 for approximately \$47.6 million. Over a century of farming on the island has contributed to subsidence through a process called microbial oxidation, which lowers the island's elevations and emits greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. As a result, Webb Tract sits 12-25 feet below sea level. The island, like other islands in the Delta, is protected by perimeter levees that prevent flooding by holding back the water from the surrounding rivers and sloughs. If current farming practices continue, the islands will continue to emit greenhouse gases and lose land surface elevation, increasing hydrostatic pressure on levee systems that protect them.

Webb Tract has a history of being a difficult island to farm because it is deeply subsided, with challenging topography, and is only accessible by ferry. The island has experienced increasing seepage from below, creating areas too wet to farm, further reducing available farming opportunities. Annual revenue from the island averaged less than \$120,000 annually when the island was purchased. Since its purchase, Metropolitan staff sought opportunities to increase revenue on the island while also reducing impacts from continued subsidence caused by traditional farming practices. Working with local farmers and environmental restoration specialists, Metropolitan identified two primary revenue-generating opportunities that would not only increase revenue but also prioritize subsidence reversal, carbon sequestration, habitat benefits, constructability, and site management.

Metropolitan sought a grant that would provide funding for the development of rice fields, a promising revenue-generating crop, and the construction of a wetland that would reverse subsidence, sequester carbon, and generate carbon credits that can be sold in the carbon market or used to offset emissions through Metropolitan's Board-adopted Climate Action Plan. Additional revenue can be realized from recreational hunting once the wetland is built. Staff is also actively exploring other revenue-generating ideas for the island.

In May 2023, the Board adopted a resolution to accept a \$20,907,371 grant from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) to fund design, environmental documentation, permitting (collectively Phase 1), and construction (Phase 2) of rice fields and a wetland project on Webb Tract (**Attachment 6**). On May 24, 2023, the Delta Conservancy awarded Metropolitan the grant. In August 2023, the Board approved Phase 1 activities for both projects. Executed in March 2024, the grant has a five-year funding term that expires in February 2029. In April 2026, the Board approved a lease agreement and accepted Phase 2 funding to grow rice on the island. The total cost of the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project and the Rice Conversion Project is anticipated to total approximately \$28,000,000. The Delta Conservancy grant is \$20,907,371. The Metropolitan Capital Investment Plan share for both projects is \$7,092,629 or approximately 25 percent of the total amount.

Metropolitan completed the final design and CEQA analysis, obtained all regulatory permits for the wetland restoration project, and is now ready to award contracts to begin construction. It is anticipated that the second project on the island that is covered by the grant, construction of rice fields, will begin. It is anticipated that the second project on the island that is covered by the grant, construction of rice fields, will begin in late July 2026.

Webb Tract Wetland Restoration – Construction

The scope of construction consists of constructing and restoring approximately 2,800 acres of wetlands on Webb Tract, including building and heightening berms, modifying drainage features, grading, constructing access roads, constructing water control structures, clearing and grubbing, and furnishing and planting vegetation.

A total of \$23,500,000 is allocated for this work; besides the amount of the contract, other allocated funds include the following for consulting or utility services: \$1,988,400 for MBK Engineers for construction management services; \$864,000 for Environmental Science Associates for environmental monitoring; \$260,000 for GEI Consultants, Inc. for technical support; \$145,000 for HydroFocus scientific monitoring; \$100,000 for J.A. Spezia Consulting for public outreach and tribal engagement; and \$350,000 for electrical service by the local provider. Metropolitan labor includes \$361,000 for overview and management of the construction management agreement; \$140,000 for submittal review, technical support during construction, responding to requests for information, and preparation of record drawings; \$2,150,000 for contract administration, environmental monitoring, and project management; and \$616,064 for the remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds.

Award of Construction Contract (Wood Bros Inc.)

Specifications No. 2153 for the Webb Tract Restoration was advertised for bids on March 23, 2026. As shown in **Attachment 2**, four bids were received and opened on May 14, 2026. The low bid from Wood Bros Inc. in the amount of \$16,525,536 complies with the requirements of the specifications. The other bids ranged from \$16,883,300 to \$21,599,500, while the engineer's estimate for this project was \$18,000,000. For this contract, Metropolitan established a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level of at least 10 percent of the bid amount. Wood Bros Inc. has agreed to meet this level of participation. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**.

Metropolitan will use consulting services to perform the majority of the construction management and inspection. Metropolitan staff will oversee the consultant's work. Engineering Services' performance metric target range for construction management and inspection of projects with construction costs greater than \$3 million is 9 to 12 percent. For this project, the anticipated inspection cost is approximately 14.2 percent of the total construction cost. The performance metric for construction management on this project is anticipated to exceed the metric due to the project's remote location and the need for ferry transportation to reach the island.

Construction Management Services Agreement (MBK Engineers) – New Agreement

This action awards a \$1,988,400 contract to MBK Engineers to provide on-site construction management services. MBK Engineers was prequalified via Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1291. MBK Engineering was selected based on the expertise of the firm's staff, familiarity with similar projects, and the cost proposal submitted for the project.

MBK Engineers will provide on-site construction contract administration and inspection services to ensure the project complies with plans and specifications. The planned services also include office engineering, cost estimating, construction schedule analysis, and administrative support.

This action authorizes an agreement with MBK Engineers for \$1,988,400 to provide on-site construction management services. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 25 percent. MBK Engineers is an SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent SBE participation.

Environmental Monitoring Services (Environmental Science Associates) – Agreement Amendment

Environmental Science Associates completed environmental compliance documentation to obtain a CEQA statutory exemption, prepared all regulatory permit applications, and completed construction management plans for approval from regulatory agencies under an existing board-authorized professional services agreement and was prequalified via RFQ No. 1265. As the environmental planning services firm of record, Environmental Science Associates is recommended to provide environmental monitoring during construction. Planned activities include biological monitoring and preparation of monthly and annual reports to satisfy regulatory permit requirements. The estimated cost for these services is \$864,000.

This action authorizes an increase of \$864,000 to the existing agreement with Environmental Science Associates for a new not-to-exceed total of \$1,844,000 to provide environmental monitoring services during construction. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 10 percent. Environmental Science Associates has agreed to meet this level of participation.

Engineering Support Services (GEI Consultants Inc.) – Agreement Amendment

GEI Consultants Inc. performed final design for the construction of an approximately 2,400-acre wetland on Webb Tract under an existing board-authorized professional services agreement and was prequalified via Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1291. As the engineer of record, GEI Consultants Inc. is recommended to provide technical support during construction. Planned activities include responding to contractor information requests, reviewing submittals, advising staff on technical issues as they arise during construction, and preparing record drawings. The estimated cost for these services is \$260,000.

This action authorizes an increase of \$260,000 to the existing agreement with GEI Consultants Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$1,760,000 to provide technical support during construction. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 15 percent. GEI Consultants Inc. has agreed to meet this level of participation.

Scientific Monitoring Services (HydroFocus Inc.) – Agreement Amendment

HydroFocus, Inc. performed scientific monitoring and baseline greenhouse gas emissions estimates under an existing professional services agreement and was prequalified via Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1291. As the scientific monitoring firm of record, HydroFocus Inc. is recommended to provide technical support during construction. Planned activities include relocating and replacing scientific monitoring equipment before and after construction and conducting scientific monitoring and data collection. The estimated cost for these services is \$145,000.

This action authorizes an increase of \$145,000 to the existing agreement with HydroFocus Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total of \$600,000 to provide scientific monitoring during construction. Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 25 percent. HydroFocus Inc. is an SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent SBE participation.

Public Outreach and Tribal Coordination Services (J.A. Spezia Consulting) – Agreement Amendment

J.A. Spezia Consulting performed outreach and tribal engagement services during Phase 1 design and permitting activities under an existing board-authorized professional services agreement and was prequalified via Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1291. As the firm responsible for public outreach and tribal coordination, J.A. Spezia Consulting is recommended for these activities during construction. Planned activities include coordinating public engagement and outreach strategies during construction. The estimated cost for these services is \$100,000.

This action authorizes an increase of \$100,000 to the existing agreement with J.A. Spezia Consulting for a new not-to-exceed total of \$300,000 to provide outreach and tribal engagement support during construction. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 25 percent. J.A. Spezia Consulting is an SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent SBE participation.

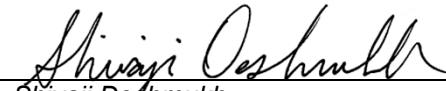
Project Milestone

November 2028 – Completion of construction



Mai M. Hattar
Chief Engineer
Engineering Services

6/24/2026

Date

Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

6/24/2026

Date**Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds****Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids****Attachment 3 – List of Subcontractors****Attachment 4 – List of Subconsultants****Attachment 5 – Location Map****Attachment 6 – Resolution**

Ref# es12710820

Allocation of Funds for Webb Tract Wetlands Restoration Project

	Current Board Action (July 2026)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	\$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	2,150,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	90,000
Construction Inspection & Support	361,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	-
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	400,000
Professional/Technical Services	
MBK Engineers	1,988,400
GEI Consultants Inc.	260,000
Environmental Science Associates	864,000
J.A. Spezia Consulting	100,000
HydroFocus Inc.	145,000
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	
Wood Bros Inc.	16,525,536
Remaining Budget	616,064
Total	\$ 23,500,000

The total amount expended to date for the Webb Tract Wetland Restoration Project is approximately \$4.5 million, of which approximately \$2.1 million was reimbursed by the Delta Conservancy grant. The total estimated cost to complete the construction of the wetlands, including the amount appropriated to date and funds allocated for the work described in this action, is \$28 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Abstract of Bids Received on May 14, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.****Specifications No. 2153
Webb Tract Wetland Restoration**

The work includes constructing and restoring wetlands on Webb Tract, including building and heightening berms, modifying toe-ditches, grading, constructing access roads, constructing water control structures, clearing and grubbing, and furnishing and planting vegetation.

Engineer's estimate: \$18,000,000

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE \$	SBE %	Met SBE¹
Wood Bros Inc. Lemoore, CA	\$16,625,636	\$1,670,000	10%	Yes
Odin Environmental Solutions Roseville, CA	\$16,883,300	-	-	-
The Dutra Group San Rafael, CA	\$18,038,440	-	-	-
Forgen Rocklin, CA	\$21,599,500	-	-	-

¹ Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level established at 10 percent for this contract.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subcontractors for Low Bidder****Specifications No. 2153
Webb Tract Wetland Restoration****Low bidder:** Wood Bros Inc.

Subcontractor	Service Category; Specialty
F3 & Associates Inc. Bernicia, CA	Surveying
Kroeker Inc. Fresno, CA	Mobilization
Landology Inc. Penryn, CA	Planting
Zumalt Fresno, CA	Testing

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subconsultants for Project Agreements****Environmental Science Associates**

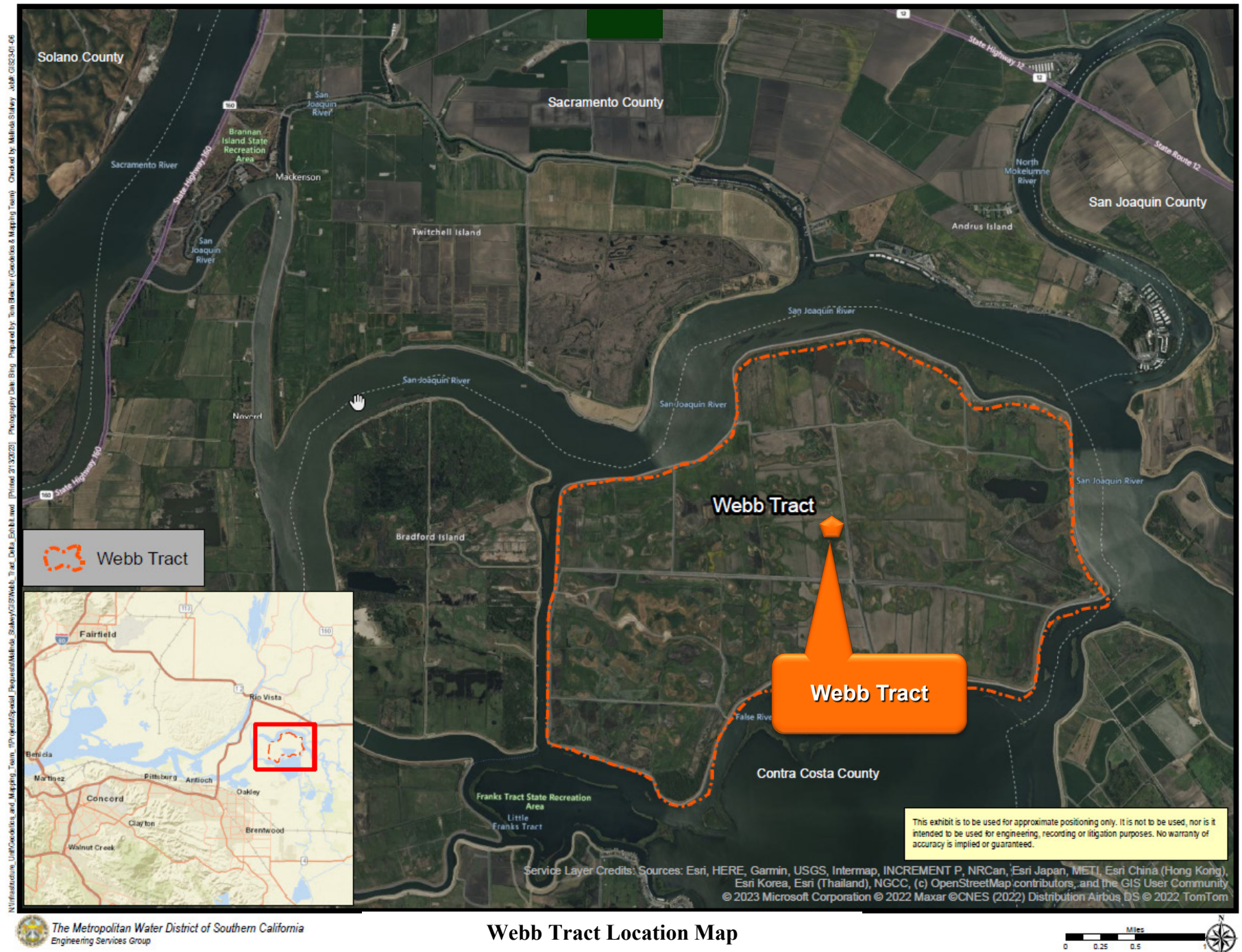
Subconsultants	Service Category; Specialty
Biomass Inc. San Francisco, CA	Biological Monitoring
Blackhawk Environmental San Diego, CA	Biological Resources
Duke Cultural Resources Management LLC (Duke CRM) Irvine, CA	Cultural Resources
LG2WB Engineers Inc. dba Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers Irvine, CA	Traffic Consultant
Terry A. Hayes Inc. Culver City, CA	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Energy and Noise and Vibration Specialist

GEI Consultants Inc.

Subconsultants	Service Category; Specialty
CBEC Inc. West Sacramento, CA	Hydraulics and Hydrology

J.A. Spezia Consulting

Subconsultants	Service Category; Specialty
Don Hankins Forest Ranch, CA	Ecocultural Specialist
Austin Stevenot Modesto, CA	Ecocultural Specialist



RESOLUTION 9344

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING
UNDER THE DELTA CONSERVANCY NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS:
WETLAND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP
A MULTI-BENEFIT LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITY ON WEBB TRACT**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy) is requesting proposals from sponsors to facilitate project development under the Amended Budget Act of 2022 for projects that support Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration; and

WHEREAS, the submittal of a proposal for grant funding and acceptance of funding by Metropolitan has been determined not to be a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15378(b)(4) and Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure of grant funding, if awarded, for design, environmental review, preconstruction data collection and permitting activities by Metropolitan has been determined to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15306 and Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

WHEREAS, prior to formal approval of any proposed construction by the Board, CEQA documentation will be prepared and processed in accordance with the CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California that the Board supports the Metropolitan Water District's proposal to Develop a Multi-Benefit Landscape Opportunity on Webb Tract.

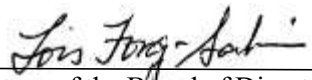
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan's Board authorizes Metropolitan's General Manager or his/her designee to accept grant funding of approximately \$20,900,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan's Board delegates legal authority to Metropolitan's General Manager to enter into an agreement with the Delta Conservancy, subject to the approval of the General Counsel, relevant to receipt of the requested proposal to Develop a Multi-Benefit Landscape Opportunity on Webb Tract grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan is capable of providing the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if selected for funding, Metropolitan will work with Delta Conservancy to meet established program deadlines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held May 9, 2023.



Secretary of the Board of Directors
of The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California