

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

November 13, 2023

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Director Peterson indicated that he is participating under AB 2449 “emergency circumstances” for a physical emergency that prevents him from attending in person.

Director Peterson appeared by audio and on camera.

AB 2449 “emergency circumstances” vote for Director Peterson was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, McMillan, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Alvarez, Camacho, Chacon, Dennstedt, Lefevre, Miller, Petersen, and Smith

The motion for Director Peterson to participate using AB 2449 Emergency Circumstance passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 8 absent.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho (entered after roll call), Dennstedt (entered after roll call), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre (teleconference posted location, entered after roll call), McMillan, Miller (entered after roll call), Morris, Petersen (entered after roll call), Peterson (AB 2449 Emergency Circumstance), Seckel, and Smith (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Director Chacon

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Armstrong, Dick, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, McCoy, Pressman (teleconference posted location) and Sutley.

Director Peterson indicated that he is participating under AB 2449 “Emergency Circumstances” regarding physical emergency. Director Peterson appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Carter, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Hattar, Parsons, Upadhyay, and Wheeler

Director Lefevre entered the meeting.

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))

1. Paul Shoenberger – General Manager Mesa Water District – In support of item 7-1
2. Katy Wagner – Sierra Club California – In opposition to item 7-1
3. Darcy Burke – Elsinore Valley Water District – In support of item 7-1
4. Mark Stern – Assistant General Manager South Coast Water District – In support of item 7-1
5. Charming Evelyn– Sierra Club – In opposition to item 7-1
6. Maura Monagan– LA Waterkeepers – In opposition to item 7-1
7. Ashley Craig – Resident of Long Beach - In opposition to item 7-1
8. Tanya Sole – President of Blue Desal – In support of item 7-1
9. Andy Morris – President of Elsinore Valley MWD – In support of item 7-1
10. Jan Warren – Water Protector from Bay Area – In opposition to item 7-1
11. Greg Thomas – General Manager Elsinore Valley MWD – In support of item 7-1
12. Harvey Ryan – Elsinore Valley MWD – In support of item 7-1
13. Glenn Farrel – Cal Desal – In support of item 7-1
14. Lydia Ponce – We the Tonga People Sagnay – In opposition to item 7-1
15. Sofia Quinones – East L.A. Boyle Heights Coalition – In opposition to item 7-1
16. Ian Bassana – Resident of Paramount – In opposition to item 7-1
17. Connor Everts – Desal Response Group – In opposition to item 7-1

Directors Dennstedt, Camacho, Miller, Petersen, and Smith 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 October 9, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

Director Fong-Sakai recused herself from item 7-1 and left the meeting.

- 7-1** Subject: Authorize professional services agreements with: (1) AECOM Technical Services Inc. in a total amount not to exceed \$660,000; and (2) CDM Smith Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$475,000, to perform water desalination studies in Metropolitan's service area; for desalination technologies for potential water supply augmentation; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Warren Teitz, Team Manager Resource Development

Motion: Authorize professional services agreements with: (1) AECOM Technical Services Inc. in a total amount not to exceed \$660,000; and (2) CDM Smith Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$475,000, to perform water desalination studies in Metropolitan's service area

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Camacho
2. Petersen
3. Ortega
4. Alvarez
5. Miller
6. Armstrong
7. Dennstedt

Director Fong- Sakai entered the meeting.

7-2 Subject: Authorize an agreement with General Networks Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$6,609,900 for the implementation of a cloud-based Enterprise Content Management System; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Steve Gonzales – Information Governance & Enterprise Content Management Specialist

Motion: Authorize an agreement with General Networks Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$6,609,900 for the implementation of a cloud-based Enterprise Content Management System

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Petersen
3. Goldberg

7-3 Subject: Authorize an increase of \$3,100,000 in change order authority for the contract to replace the overhead bridge cranes at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$3,100,000 in change order authority for the contract to replace the overhead bridge cranes at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants

7-4 Subject: Award a \$1,244,935 contract to HP Communications Inc. to construct a new fiber optic cable line from Parker Dam to the Gene Pumping Plant; and authorize an increase of \$176,000 to an existing agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$451,000 for technical support during construction; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: Award a \$1,244,935 contract to HP Communications Inc. to construct a new fiber optic cable line from Parker Dam to the Gene Pumping Plant; and authorize an increase of \$176,000 to an existing agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$451,000 for technical support during construction

After completion of the presentations, Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A, and items 7-1, 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4.

Director Peterson announced that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Noes: Director Alvarez item 7-1

Abstentions: Director Matt Petersen for item 7-1

Not voting: Director Fong-Sakai for item 7-1

Absent: Director Chacon

The motion for Items 2A, 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

The motion for Item 7-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 1 noes, 1 abstention, 1 not voting, and 1 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

Director Fong-Sakai recused herself from item 8-1 and left the meeting

8-1 Subject: Award an \$18,840,000 contract to Steve P. Rados Inc. to construct a surge protection facility on the Inland Feeder as part of the water supply reliability improvements in the Rialto Pipeline service area; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (This action is part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve the supply reliability for State Water Project dependent member agencies.)

Presented by: Wayne Thilo – Pr. Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Award an \$18,840,000 contract to Steve P. Rados Inc. to construct a surge protection facility on the Inland Feeder near the Badlands Tunnel. This project is part of water supply reliability improvements in the Rialto Pipeline service area.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Bryant
3. Erdman

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

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Chacon, Fong-Sakai

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

Director Fong- Sakai entered the meeting.

8-2 Subject: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and award a \$16,055,500 procurement contract to Northwest Pipe Company for steel pipe to rehabilitate a portion of the Lakeview Pipeline

Presented by: Cristian Ovalle – Team Manager – Program Management

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and award a \$16,055,500 contract to Northwest Pipe Company to furnish 12,500 feet of welded steel pipe to rehabilitate a portion of the Lakeview Pipeline.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Seckel
3. Dick
4. Petersen

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion seconded by Director Morris to approve item 8-2.

Director Peterson announced that no one was in the room with them 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Chacon

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Project Labor Agreement Annual Report
Presented by: Doaa Aboul-Hosn, Team Manager, Construction Contracts

Ms. Aboul-Hosn reported on the following:

- Project Labor Agreement adopted in October 2022
- Five-year term with 34 projects that covers 90% of planned CIP expenditures
- Major provisions to the agreement such as 60% goal for employment of local workers, 15% goal for employment of transitional workers and unique core small business carveout
- PLA Administration process: Contract award, PLA Orientation, Pre-Job Conference and Workforce Development Orientation
- Awarded 8 PLA Construction Contracts
- Next Annual Report in November 2024

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Miller

Director Camacho left the meeting.

- b. Subject: Nitrification Management
Item Deferred

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

Mr. Upadhyay and Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Upcoming EOT Committee Inspection Trip on November 16, 2023
- Rupam Soni was recognized for Recycled Water Advocate of the Year award winner
- Southern California Chapter Arab American Association of Engineers & Architects recognized Mai Hattar for her leadership
- Information Technology & Water Quality staff Seyoum Gebremariam, Jonathan Houck & Seth Potter were recognized by the Center for Digital Government as the project winner of the Center for Digital Government GOVX Government Experience Award for creating the Lake Explorer Dashboard, a reservoir water quality dashboard that monitors levels of chlorophyll and cyanobacteria

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Nothing to report.

The following Director's provided comments or asked questions

1. Smith

Staff responded to Director's comments.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on January 8, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair