

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**June 10, 2024**

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre (AB 2449 “just cause”), McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen (entered after roll call), and Seckel.

Director Lefevre stated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” because he is a caretaker for a family member. He stated that he was alone in the room.

Members absent: Director Smith.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Garza, Goldberg, Kurtz, Ramos (teleconference posted location) and Sutley.

Committee staff present: Arakelian, Chapman, Hagekhalil, Parsons, 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

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for May 13, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions).

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

**7-2** Subject: Authorize on-call agreements with AECOM, Black & Veatch, and Hazen and Sawyer in amounts not to exceed \$3 million each, for a maximum of three years for engineering services; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: No Presentation

Motion: Authorize on-call agreements with AECOM, Black & Veatch, and Hazen and Sawyer in amounts not to exceed \$3 million each, for a maximum period of three years for engineering services.

No Director comments or questions.

**7-3** Subject: Award a \$897,469 contract to Exaro Technologies Corporation to construct a cathodic protection system along the Santa Monica Feeder; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: No Presentation

Motion: Award an \$897,469 contract to Exaro Technologies Corporation for the construction of a cathodic protection system on the Santa Monica Feeder.

No Director comments or questions.

Director Fong-Sakai recused herself on Item 7-2 as it involves authorizing an agreement with AECOM, and she currently owns AECOM stock.

Director Fong-Sakai abstained on Item 2A as she was not present at the May 13, 2024 meeting.

Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Dennstedt to approve Items 2A, 7-2 and 7-3.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: Director Fong-Sakai (Item 2A)

Not Voting: Director Fong-Sakai (Item 7-2)

Absent: Directors Petersen and Smith

The motion for Items 2A and 7-2 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention/1 not voting, and 2 absent.

The motion for Item 7-3 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

Director Lefevre stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

**8-1** Subject: Approve and appropriate an increase of \$25 million to the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 for a new biennium amount of \$625 million; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Michael Thomas, Capital Program Management Unit Manager, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Approve and appropriate an increase of \$25 million to the Capital Investment Plan for FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24 budget for a new biennium amount of \$625 million.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

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

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Peterson and Smith

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

Director Lefevre stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Capital Investment Plan quarterly report for period ending March 30, 2024.

Presented by: Jeff Nikolas, Senior Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Nikolas reported on the following:

- Capital Investment Plan for the third quarter of fiscal year 2023/24, covering January 2024 through March 2024.
- Summary of key actions and accomplishments detailed in the report provided in the board packet.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Vice Chair Camacho left the room at 1:56 p.m.

b. Subject: Celebrating the History of Water Quality at Metropolitan

Presented by: Dr. Paul Rochelle, Water Quality Section Manager, Treatment & Water Quality Group

Dr. Rochelle presented the following:

- Formation of Metropolitan's Water Quality and Research Branch in response to the passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974.
- 50-Year history of Water Quality Section.
- Research, innovation, and new analytical tools in response to increasing regulations and expanded needs.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Petersen entered the room at 2:12 p.m.

c. Subject: Report on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Memorandum of Agreement with Coalition Members to fund proposed Targeted Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure for Water Utilities Program

Presented by: Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency & Innovation Officer  
Rosa Castro, Grants & Research Unit Manager, Office of Sustainability, Resiliency & Innovation

Ms. Crosson and Ms. Castro reported on the following:

- Grant funding opportunity for zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure for water utilities.
- U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant overview, proposal, and program benefits
- Coalition with member agencies and sub-agencies, including Memorandum of Agreement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Miller
3. Dick

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Vice Chair Camacho returned to the room at 2:31 p.m.

## **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:

- Correction of recent Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation (Reach 9) Board letter erroneously referencing RFP 1168 rather than RFQ 1305.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Services and Water System Operations Partnering Workshop.
- 2024 Member Agency Engineering Managers Annual Workshop.
- CRA Overhead Crane Replacement Project.

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Current operational conditions and shutdowns.
- Upcoming Member Agency Water Quality Managers Nitrification Workshop.

Water System Operations alignment into three new Groups: Conveyance and Distribution Group, Treatment and Water Quality Group, and Integrated Operations, Planning and Support Services Group.

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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

The following Director provided comments or asked questions.

1. McMillan

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Petersen confirmed at 2:53 p.m.

## **9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be on July 8, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair