

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2023

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

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

Members absent: Directors Chacon and Quinn.

Other Board Members present: Ackerman, Atwater (teleconference posted location), Dick, Garza, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, and Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Parsons, Upadhyay, and Jarrad.

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

None

#### 2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Subject: Report from Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

Presented by: Director John Morris

Subcommittee has presentations on

- State Water Project Dependent Areas Drought Mitigation Actions
- Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Report

#### CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

#### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for March 13, 2023

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

**7-1** Subject: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and related CEQA actions, and award an \$8,656,568 contract to Granite Construction Company for construction of structural protection measures at 24 cut-and-cover conduit locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct; authorize agreements with: (1) Environmental Science Associates in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for biological surveys and environmental monitoring; and (2) Deto, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 for compensatory environmental mitigation credits.

Presented by: Catherine Lou, Engineer, Engineering Services

Motion: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and related CEQA actions, and a. Award an \$8,656,568 contract to Granite Construction Company for construction of structural protection measures at 24 cut-and-cover conduit locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct; b. Authorize an agreement with Environmental Science Associates in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for biological surveys and environmental monitoring; and c. Authorize an agreement with Deto, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 for compensatory environmental mitigation credits.

**7-2** Subject: Award a \$6,174,000 contract to West Valley Investment Group for seismic upgrades to the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Arya Ahang, Engineer, Engineering Services

Motion: Award a \$6,174,000 contract to West Valley Investment Group for seismic upgrades to the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Faessel

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Dennstedt entered the meeting.

**7-3 Subject:** Authorize an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 for a detailed seismic analysis of the Lake Skinner outlet tower; and award a \$1,174,475 procurement contract to B&K Valves and Equipment, Inc. for the replacement of two valves at the Lake Skinner outlet tower; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

**Presented by:** Albert Rodriguez, Sr Engineer, Engineering Services

**Motion:**

- a. Authorize an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for a not-to-exceed amount of \$900,000, for detailed seismic analysis of the Lake Skinner outlet tower.
- b. Award a \$1,174,475 procurement contract to B&K Valves and Equipment, Inc. for the replacement of two valves at the Lake Skinner outlet tower.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Faessel
2. Seckel
3. Erdman
4. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

**7-4 Subject:** Authorize an increase of \$475,000 to an agreement with Brown & Caldwell, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$715,000, to investigate potential modifications to Metropolitan's existing East-West conveyance and distribution system; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

**Motion:** Authorize an amendment to an existing agreement with Brown & Caldwell, for a \$475,000 increase to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$715,000, to investigate potential modifications to Metropolitan's existing East-West conveyance and distribution system.

Mr. John Bednarski, Group Manager, Engineering Services provided a summary of this item.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Lefevre
2. Smith
3. Ortega
4. Miller
5. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Petersen left the meeting.

- 7-5** Subject: Authorize an increase of \$5.4 million to an existing agreement with Arcadis U.S., Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$6.35 million, for engineering design services to rehabilitate Garvey Reservoir; the General Manager has determined that this proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
- Motion: Authorize an increase of \$5.4 million to an existing agreement with Arcadis U.S., Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$6.35 million, for engineering design services to rehabilitate Garvey Reservoir.

Mr. John Bednarski, Group Manager, Engineering Services provided a summary of this item.

- 7-6** Subject: Authorize an agreement with Canary Systems California, LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$1.95 million to upgrade the data acquisition systems at Diamond Valley Lake and Garvey Reservoir; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
- Motion: Authorize an agreement with Canary Systems California, LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$1.95 million to upgrade the data acquisition systems at Diamond Valley Lake and Garvey Reservoir.

Mr. John Bednarski, Group Manager, Engineering Services provided a summary of this item.

After completion of the presentations, Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Morris, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 3A, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6  
The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Director Petersen, Camacho, Chacon, Quinn

The motion for Items 3A, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

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

- 5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**  
NONE
- 6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**  
NONE

## 7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a.           Subject:           Annual Seismic Resilience Update
- Presented by:       John Shamma, Section Manager, Engineering Services

Mr. Shamma reported on the following:

- Review of ongoing Seismic Assessments of Metropolitan Infrastructure
- Overview of Agency Partnerships related to seismic resilience
- Review of Metropolitan's concrete structures in light of recent earthquakes in Turkey

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Seckel
2. Peterson
3. Faessel
4. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Camacho entered the meeting.

- b.           Subject:           Jensen Operating Capacity Analysis
- Presented by:       Keith Nobriga, Assistant Group Manager (Interim), Water System Operations

Mr. Nobriga reported on the following:

- Review of Jensen historical and forecasted flows
- Options under consideration to maintain or reduce Jensen's rated capacity
- Advantages and disadvantages of plant capacity options, including projected capital and O&M savings
- Board feedback received on option to continue phasing projects at 500 MGD

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Seckel
2. Camacho
3. Dennstedt
4. Smith
5. Erdman
6. Peterson
7. Lefevre
8. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- c.           Subject:           Update on Jensen Reliability Projects
- Presented by:     JR Rhoads, Jensen Unit Manager, Water System Operations  
                                  Joline Muñoz, Engineer, Engineering Services Group
- Mr. Rhoads and Ms. Muñoz reported on the following
- Overview of Jensen operations under extreme conditions
  - System reliability improvement needs
  - Key upcoming capital projects to ensure Jensen’s continued reliability:  
Bromate Control, Electrical Upgrades Stage 3, and Solids Mechanical  
Dewatering

Director Fong-Sakai entered the meeting.

- d.           Subject:           Quarterly Cybersecurity Update
- Presented by:     Jacob Margolis, Director of Information Technology Services

In closed session, the committee heard the item. No action was taken.

**8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.           Subject:           Water System Operations Manager’s Report
- Due to time constraints, report presentation deferred
- b.           Subject:           Engineering Services Manager’s Report
- Due to time constraints, report presentation deferred
- c.           Subject:           Information Technology Manager’s Report
- No Report for April

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Schedule of Directors to attend next Desert Housing Field Trip

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

How is overall CIP budget effected by new projects added during the budget cycle.

The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair