

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**August 14, 2023**

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Chacon, Fong-Sakai, and Quinn.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Bryant, Kurtz, and Petersen.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Carter, Parsons, and Upadhyay.

**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

**2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS --ACTION**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

**A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for July 10, 2023

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

**7-1** Subject: Award a \$1,962,691 contract to Structural Preservation Systems for urgent relining of three pipe segments on the Sepulveda Feeder; and authorize an increase of: (1) \$280,000 to an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$15,780,000; and (2) \$240,000 to a land lease agreement with Los Angeles Community College District for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,090,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: a. Award a \$1,962,691 contract to Structural Preservation Systems for urgent relining of Sepulveda Feeder; b. Authorize a \$280,000 increase to a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$15,780,000; and c. Authorize a \$240,000 increase to an existing land lease agreement with Los Angeles Community College District for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,090,000.

**7-2** Subject: Authorize an agreement with Nth Generation Computing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$367,448 for the Datacenter Backup Infrastructure Upgrade; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to.

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Nth Generation Computing Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$367,448 for the Datacenter Backup Infrastructure Upgrade.

No presentation was given, Director Faessel made a motion, seconded by Director Alvarez, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 3A, 7-1, and 7-2.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Seckel and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Chacon, Dennstedt, Fong-Sakai, Peterson, and Quinn.

The motion for Items 3a, 7-1, and 7-2 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 6 absent.

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

**5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS ACTION**

**8-2** Subject: Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 to provide staff augmentation support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center for a period of up to one year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Consultation with Metropolitan Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology, Jacob Margolis, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; may be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)]

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 to provide staff augmentation support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center for a period of up to one year.

No presentation was given, Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Faessel to approve item 8-2.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Seckel, and Smith.

Noes: Director Morris

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Chacon, Dennstedt, Fong-Sakai, Peterson, and Quinn,

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 1 noes, 0 abstentions, and 6 absent.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Faessel
2. Smith

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

**6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

Vice Chair Camacho entered the meeting.

## 7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a.           Subject:           Update on use of Alternate Project Delivery for Metropolitan Projects
- Presented by:     Doug Hathaway, Program Manager, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Hathaway reported on the following:

- Background of Assembly Bills 1845 (Calderon), Senate Bill 991 (Newman)
- Improving infrastructure to improve access to water supplies
- Upcoming Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations progressive design-build project

Director Peterson entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Faessel
2. Lefevre
3. Camacho
4. Smith
5. Peterson
6. Seckel
7. Erdman

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Vice Chair Camacho left the meeting.

Director Dennstedt entered the meeting.

- b.           Subject:           Update on Colorado River Aqueduct Electrical Upgrades
- Presented by:     Santiago Ocampo, Engineer, Engineering Services Group, Program Management Section

Mr. Ocampo reported on the following:

- CRA electrical reliability goals
- Planned work on medium & low-voltage systems
- Switch racks replacement
- Main transformers replacement
- Black Metal Mtn. electrical power upgrades

- Summary of work completed to date, and additional upcoming projects

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Faessel
2. Peterson
3. Erdman

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

- c.            Subject:            Reservoir Management Update
- Presented by:        George Di Giovanni, Unit Manager-Microbiology, Water System Operations

Mr. Di Giovanni reported on the following:

- Water quality issues in reservoirs
- Reservoir management monitoring tools and actions
- Quagga mussels and cyanobacterial blooms in 2023
- Adapting to climate change including managing turbidity, runoff and spill events, and low alkalinity

The following Director's provided comments or asked questions

1. Peterson

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

- d.            Subject:            Emergency Management Program Update
- Presented by:        Ian Whyte, Emergency Management Program Manager, Water System Operations

Mr. Whyte reported on the following:

- Emergency Management Program overview
- Emergency Response Organization and EOC Duty Officer program
- Ensuring emergency readiness through training and exercises, planning, and partnering with member and external agencies

The following Directors' provided comments or asked questions

1. Seckel
2. Dennstedt
3. Erdman

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Alvarez left the meeting.

## **8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.           Subject:            Water System Operations Manager's Report  
Presented by:       Mickey Chaudhuri, Water System Operations, Interim Group Manager

Mr. Chaudhuri reported on the following:

- Current operational conditions, maximizing SWP supplies, and Etiwanda Pipeline returned to service
- U.S. EPA proposed designation of PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances
- Proposed Chromium 6 drinking water standard
- Proposed Direct Potable Reuse regulations released
- Apprenticeship Class of 2023 Completion Ceremony

- b.           Subject:            Engineering Services Manager's Report  
Presented by:       John Bednarski, Group Manager, Engineering Services

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Construction and procurement contracts, July 2023
- Significant pipeline rehabilitations including Orange County Feeder, Etiwanda Pipeline, and Lakeview Pipeline.
- Inland Empire Industry Day September 14, 2023
- 2023 EOT Inspection Trip – November 16, 2023

- c.           Subject:            Information Technology Manager's Report  
Presented by:       Charles Eckstrom, Information Technology Group Manager

Mr. Eckstrom reported on the following:

- Telecomm usage evaluation
- Cost savings to Metropolitan

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Dennis Erdman

Chair