



- **Board of Directors**
Finance and Asset Management Committee

5/14/2024 Board Meeting

7-5

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new ground license for telecommunications facilities with the City of Pasadena to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan's wireless wide area networks and local area networks; the subject telecom site is located in the City of Pasadena, identified as Los Angeles County Assessor Parcel No. 5705-001-900; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This proposed action authorizes the General Manager to execute a new ground license with the City of Pasadena for a Microwave Tower that will serve as a new communications link to the nearby Eagle Rock Operations Command Center (OCC), Union Station Headquarters, and Garvey Reservoir site. The site is located at 1530 Glen Oaks Boulevard in the City of Pasadena (**Attachment 1**)

The current microwave equipment was installed in 2003 at a nearby location and experiences recurring communications disruptions. New equipment and infrastructure at the proposed site will increase the reliability of transmitting communications data. This Information Technology Group system upgrade project was presented and funded as part of a minor cap (P-105234) and CIP (15518) project for the 2021/22 fiscal year in the amount of \$399,000.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to execute a new ground license for telecommunications facilities with the City of Pasadena to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan's wireless wide area networks and local area networks.

Fiscal Impact: Metropolitan's annual rent for the site will start at \$27,000.00 with 3.5 percent annual increases.

Business Analysis: This action will increase the reliability of Metropolitan's wireless wide area networks (WAN) and local area networks (LAN) communications systems.

Option #2

Do not authorize the new ground license.

Fiscal Impact: Forgo the opportunity to increase Metropolitan's WAN and LAN communications reliability.

Business Analysis: Metropolitan would continue to encounter recurring communications disruptions and reliability issues.

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Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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

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

Not applicable

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involves the operation, maintenance, leasing, and minor alteration of existing public structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301). Additionally, the proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302). Also, the proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removing healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Metropolitan's wireless WAN and LAN presently comprises a network of 72 transmission tower sites covering a 5,200 square mile area, including the entire distribution system and the Colorado River Aqueduct. The microwave radio WAN and LAN transport data and communications to the OCC, Union Station Headquarters, Garvey Reservoir, and various other Metropolitan facilities. For some types of data, microwave radio is the primary communications system; however, microwave radio may be a backup communications system for other types of data.

The current microwave equipment was installed in 2003 and involves a passive repeater tower on a nearby site facing an on-site building that leads to line of sight and signal interference issues resulting in recurring communications disruptions.

Metropolitan's Information Technology Group has identified a site on a mountaintop in the City of Pasadena that will provide Metropolitan with better elevation and a direct line of sight to the OCC, Union Station Headquarters, and Garvey Reservoir. Metropolitan's Information Technology Group is seeking to install a new Microwave Tower at the site, which will enhance system redundancy and reliability and support the future growth of Metropolitan's IT infrastructure. The tower height will be limited to 35 feet per the City of Pasadena's requirements.

The proposed license agreement will have the following key provisions:

- 10-year base term with one ten-year option to renew by mutual consent.
- An initial annual license fee of \$27,000.00.
- Annual fixed license fee increases of 3.5 percent as provided in Pasadena Municipal Code Section 12.22.180(E)(3).
- Metropolitan will be responsible for the utilities and maintenance of the site.



Elizabeth Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resilience and
Innovation Officer

4/24/2024

Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

4/26/2024

Date

Attachment 1 – General Location Map

Ref# sri12691198

Attachment 1 - General Location Map

