



- **Board of Directors**
Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

8/19/2025 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Award a \$370,900 construction contract to American Wrecking Inc. for the removal of three existing gate frames in support of the San Gabriel Tower Improvements; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The San Gabriel Tower allows for the isolation of the Upper Feeder with three slide gates. In 2006, the gates were removed due to deterioration and inoperability, while the frames which hold the gates to the tower remain embedded in the concrete. Under the San Gabriel Tower Improvements project, staff plans to replace the gates, frames, and actuators to restore the ability to isolate the Upper Feeder at the tower. During a shutdown in February 2026, the gate frames will be removed and the condition of the concrete and reinforcing bars will be inspected. This work is needed to finalize the design for the replacement of the gates and frames during a later shutdown.

This action addresses the project's first stage and awards a \$370,900 construction contract to American Wrecking Inc. for removal of the embedded cast iron gate frames in the San Gabriel Tower. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, **Attachment 3** for the Subcontractors for the low bidder, and **Attachment 4** for the Location Map.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Award a \$370,900 construction contract to American Wrecking Inc. for the removal of three existing gate frames in support of the San Gabriel Tower Improvements.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$1,120,000 in capital funds. All expenditures will be incurred in the current biennium and have been previously authorized.

Business Analysis: This option will allow staged modifications to improve water supply reliability in the Upper Feeder.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: This option would delay the replacement of the gates in the San Gabriel Tower and forego the opportunity to improve the reliability of the Upper Feeder. Staff will continue to operate the feeder without the capability of isolation at San Gabriel Tower.

Alternatives Considered

During the planning stages of this project, staff evaluated the reuse of the existing gate frames and the possibility of mounting new gate frames while leaving the existing gate frames in place. In February 2024, during an Upper Feeder shutdown, an inspection of the gate frames confirmed that they were too heavily corroded to be reused or to remain in place. Replacing the gates, frames, and associated appurtenances requires removing the old gate frames.

During a value engineering workshop in November 2024, it was recommended that multiple shutdowns be used to perform the tower improvements due to the adverse impacts of an extended shutdown on this critical feeder. As a result, the first shutdown will remove the gate frames and inspect the condition of the concrete and reinforcing bars. In a second shutdown, new frames and slide gates will be installed. This alternative restores a critical Upper Feeder isolation point and reduces the impact to member agencies that are dependent on feeder flows.

Applicable Policy

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

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

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

By Minute Item 51129, dated March 8, 2018, the Board authorized \$1.7 million for preliminary design and a \$500,000 consultant agreement for environmental support services for upgrades to the San Gabriel Tower.

By Minute Item 53598, dated April 8, 2024, the Board appropriated a total of \$636.48 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involves the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public 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.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

The Upper Feeder conveys treated water from the Weymouth plant to the Palos Verdes Feeder and the Santa Monica Feeder, supplies multiple service connections, and supports the central pool portion of Metropolitan's distribution system. The San Gabriel Tower serves as an isolation point that allows portions of the Upper Feeder to be dewatered while other portions remain in service. The tower is located adjacent to Morris Reservoir, north of the city of Azusa. The tower is situated at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and is surrounded by the Angeles National Forest.

The San Gabriel Tower facility is an 86-foot-tall free-standing structure originally constructed in 1936. It was designed as a flow control structure, with slide gates to adjust flow and provide isolation. It is equipped with a nearby overflow weir and spillway to prevent over-pressurization of the Upper Feeder. The tower controls water flow from the finished water reservoir at the Weymouth Plant and into the Upper Feeder. It also provides the required hydraulic grade at the turnout to each service connection located upstream of the tower.

In December 2006, the gates, actuators, and appurtenances were removed as corrosion had rendered the gates inoperable. The tower's three 24-inch by 96-inch slide gates must be replaced to restore the ability to isolate the

Upper Feeder. Replacement of the gates will enable the eastern portion of the Upper Feeder, extending from the Weymouth plant to the San Gabriel Tower, to remain in service while the western portion of the feeder, which continues to the Eagle Rock Control Facility, is removed from service. This isolation capability will reduce delivery impacts to member agencies when portions of the feeder are removed from service for inspection or repair. Currently, without the gates in-place, shutdowns of the Upper Feeder are typically limited to a maximum of ten days to minimize impacts to member agencies. With new operable gates, staff will have additional flexibility in scheduling shutdowns of the Upper Feeder as sections of it can be independently isolated from one another through the use of the gates at the tower.

Replacing the gates requires removing the original cast iron gate frames still embedded in the tower. The work to remove these frames is extensive and cannot be completed within the same shutdown as the installation of the new gates with new frames, leaves, actuators, guides, and associated appurtenances due to the limited shutdown duration. The project scope of work has been separated into stages with two shutdowns of the Upper Feeder. The first stage will remove the existing embedded gate frames to prepare the site for future installation of the new gates. In addition, concrete reinforcing bars will be located at the gate frame location, and a 3D survey of the gate location will be performed to allow for their incorporation into the design of the new gates and frames. This work is scheduled to take place in February 2026.

Design for the replacement gates is currently ongoing and is scheduled to be complete in December 2026. Staff will return to the Board to award a contract to fabricate and install new gates.

San Gabriel Tower Improvements – Construction

The construction contract's scope includes removing the existing gate frames and locating the existing steel reinforcing bars. Metropolitan staff will isolate, dewater, and return the facility to service and perform a 3D survey.

A total of \$1,120,000 is required for this work. In addition to the construction contract, allocated funds for Metropolitan staff activities include \$410,000 for Metropolitan shutdown activities; \$116,000 for construction management and inspection; \$62,000 for engineering construction support, submittal review, and record drawings; \$83,000 for contract administration, environmental support, project controls, and project management; and \$78,100 for the remaining budget. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**.

Award of Construction Contract (American Wrecking Inc.)

Specification No. 2151 to remove the existing gate frames in the San Gabriel Tower was advertised for bids on May 14, 2025. As shown in **Attachment 2**, five bids were received and opened on June 26, 2025. The low bid was withdrawn due to a mathematical error in the development of the bid amount. The next lowest bid from American Wrecking Inc. in the amount \$370,900 complies with requirements of the specifications. The engineer's estimate for this project was \$450,000. For this contract, Metropolitan established a Small Business Enterprise participation level of 25 percent of the contract amount. American Wrecking Inc. has agreed to meet this level of participation.

Metropolitan staff will perform construction management and inspection. Engineering Services' performance metric target range for construction management and inspection of projects with construction less than \$3 million is 12 to 15 percent. The total construction cost is \$780,900 which includes the contract amount (\$370,900) and Metropolitan force work (\$410,000). For this project, the performance metric goal for inspection is 14.9 percent of the total construction cost.

Project Milestone

February 2026 – Removal of existing gate frames



7/25/2025

Mai M. Hattar
Interim Chief Engineer
Engineering Services

Date



7/25/2025

John Bednarski
Interim General Manager

Date

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds**Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids****Attachment 3 – Subcontractors for Low Bidder****Attachment 4 – Location Map**

Ref# es12708286

Allocation of Funds for San Gabriel Tower Improvements

	Current Board Action (Aug. 2025)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	\$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	83,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	62,000
Construction Inspection & Support	116,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	410,000
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	-
Professional/Technical Services	-
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	
American Wrecking Inc.	370,900
Remaining Budget	78,100
Total	<u>\$ 1,120,000</u>

The total amount expended to date is approximately \$5 million. The total estimated cost to complete the San Gabriel Tower Improvements, including the amount appropriated to date, funds allocated for the work described in this action, and future construction costs, is anticipated to range from \$29 million to \$30 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Abstract of Bids Received on June 26, 2025, at 2:00 P.M.

**Specifications No. 2151
San Gabriel Tower Improvements**

The work includes removal of the embedded gate frames and scanning of channel openings for rebar and conduit locations.

Engineer's estimate: \$450,000

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE \$	SBE %	Met SBE¹
Southern California Construction ² Beverly Hills, CA	\$313,000	-	-	-
American Wrecking Inc. South El Monte, CA	\$370,900	\$160,000	43	Yes
Mladen Buntich Construction Co. Inc. Upland, CA	\$695,000	-	-	-
Harbor Coating and Restoration Orange, CA	\$750,000	-	-	-
Mike Bubalo Construction Co. Inc. Baldwin Park, CA	\$1,000,000	-	-	-

¹ Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level established at 25% for this contract.

² Bid was withdrawn due to a mathematical error.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subcontractors for Low Bidder****Specifications No. 2151
San Gabriel Tower Improvements****Low bidder:** American Wrecking Inc.

Subcontractor	Service Category; Specialty
EG Montanez Construction Inc. Torrance, CA	Crane and Rigging
Penhall Company Anaheim, CA	Concrete Saw Cut
Nimble Equipment Management West Sacramento, CA	Equipment Rental

