

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**August 19, 2024**

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

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

Members absent: None.

Other Board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Dick, Douglas, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference location posted), Kurtz, and Sutley.

Committee staff present: Hattar, Chapman, Nobriga, Eckstrom, Lahouti, and Parsons.

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

None

Directors Lefevre and Miller entered the meeting.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for July 8, 2024.

Director Fong-Sakai recused herself on Item 7-1, as she currently owns AECOM stock.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

**7-1**    Subject:        Authorize on-call agreements with AECOM, RHA LLC, Strategic Value Solutions Inc., and Value Management Strategies Inc., in amounts not to exceed \$1.5 million each, for a maximum of three years for value engineering and related technical services in support of Capital Investment Plan projects; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:    No presentation requested

Motion:            Authorize on-call agreements with AECOM, RHA LLC, Strategic Value Solutions Inc., and Value Management Strategies Inc., in amounts not to exceed \$1.5 million each, for a maximum period of three years for value engineering and related technical services.

**7-2**    Subject:        Authorize an agreement to Carollo Engineers Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.3 million for owner’s advisor services to assist with progressive design build project delivery on the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical System Upgrades; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:    Cathy Chau

Motion:            Authorize an agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1.3 million to perform owner’s advisor services for progressive design-build delivery of the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical System Upgrades.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

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

Staff responded to Directors’ questions and comments.

- 7-3 Subject:** Authorize an increase of \$840,000 in change order authority to an existing contract with Steve P. Rados for the installation of an isolation valve for the Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass Pipeline; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (This action is part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve the supply reliability for State Water Project dependent member agencies)
- Presented by:** No presentation requested
- Motion:** Authorize an increase of \$840,000 in change order authority for a new maximum change order authority of \$1,581,025 to an existing contract with Steve P. Rados for the installation of an isolation valve at the Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass Pipeline.
- 7-4 Subject:** Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Inland Feeder-Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project and take related CEQA actions; adopt a resolution to accept \$5 million in funding from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant for Fiscal Year 2024 to support the Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie project; and authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; designate Metropolitan's Group Manager of Engineering Services to be the signatory to execute actions for reimbursement by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Presented by:** No presentation requested
- Motion**
- a. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Inland Feeder-Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project and take related CEQA actions.
  - b. Adopt a resolution to accept \$5 million in funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to support the Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project.
  - c. Designate the Group Manager of Engineering Services to be the signatory to execute actions related to the funds.
  - d. Appropriate \$5 million in funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for use on the Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project.

**7-5** Subject: Amend an existing agreement with Procure America Inc. for a new annual maximum amount of \$340,000 per year for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1.7 million over the term of the agreement for the audit of Metropolitan's telecommunications circuits; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion Amend an existing agreement with Procure America Inc. for a new annual maximum amount of \$340,000 per year for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1.7 million over the term of the agreement for the audit of Metropolitan's telecommunications circuits.

**7-6** Subject: Authorize a \$875,000 increase to an existing agreement with Computer Aid Incorporated to a new not to exceed amount of \$2,625,000 for staff augmentation support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center for an additional six months; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion Authorize a \$875,000 increase to an existing agreement with Computer Aid Incorporated to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2,625,000 for staff augmentation support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center for an additional six months.

Director Smith made a motion, seconded by Director Morris, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5 and 7-6.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Recusals: Fong-Sakai Item 7-1

Absent: Directors Dennstedt and Petersen

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

The motion for Item 7-1 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 1 recusal, and 2 absent.

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

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

Directors Dennstedt and Petersen entered the meeting.

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a.           Subject:           Proposed agreement amendment with the County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County for shared implementation of the Pure Water Southern California Program
- Presented by:   Bruce Chalmers, Pure Water Southern California Program Manager, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Chalmers reported on the following:

- Proposed restated and amended agreement with the County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County for shared implementation of the Pure Water Southern California Program
- Information on proposed changes to an existing agreement with LA County Sanitation District (LACSD) for the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) Program
- Board action to authorize amending this agreement

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Smith
2. Seckel
3. Faessel
4. Petersen
5. Miller
6. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b.           Subject:           Federal grant funding available from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to advance the Pure Water Southern California Program

Presented by:     Rajen Budhia, Sr Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Budhia reported on the following:

- Federal grant funding available from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to advance the Pure Water Southern California Program (PWSC)
- Update on USBR's intent to award a Large-Scale Water Recycling Program (LSWRP) grant to PWSC
- Board action to adopt a resolution to accept grant funding

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Dennstedt
2. Armstrong
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Smith
5. Miller
6. Ortega
7. Alvarez

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- c.           Subject:           Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Program Update

Presented by:     Presentation deferred.

- d.           Subject:           Emergency Management Program Update

Presented by:     Presentation deferred.

e. Subject: Zero Emissions Vehicle Update

Presented by: Ron Taraporewala, Operations Program Manager, Integrated Operations, Planning, and Support Services Group

Mr. Taraporewala reported on the following:

- Update for transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEV)
- An overview of various ZEV transition strategies balancing regulations, condition of existing fleet, and available funding
- Seeking Board input on ZEV transition plan and return with options later in 2024

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Petersen
2. Smith
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Faessel
5. Seckel
6. Camacho
7. Ortega
8. Dick
9. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments

## 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a.      Subject:            Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System  
Operations Activities

Presented by:       John Bednarski, Interim Assistant General Manager and Shane  
Chapman, Assistant General Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Update on EO&T Committee Annual Field Inspection Trip
- Completion of tunneling under I-215 for Perris Valley Pipeline Project

Mr. Chapman directed committee members to the report and presentation provided in the board packet.

No Directors provided comments or asked questions.

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

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

No report provided.

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

Director Alvarez requested a status report on the design of the first pipeline reaches of the Pure Water conveyance projects.

Chair Ortega recommended use of SharePoint system to share original LSWRP grant application with committee members.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Erdman noted that deferred items 6c. and 6d. will be brought back to the committee at a future date.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair