THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Action

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

3/12/2024 Board Meeting

7-2

Subject

Award an $892,552 procurement contract to Whipps Inc. for the fabrication and delivery of three stainless steel slide gate assemblies for the East Lake Skinner Bypass channel; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The East Lake Skinner Bypass channel is located on the San Diego Canal and is used to divert flows into San Diego Pipeline No. 5 (SDPL5) during water quality events at Lake Skinner. The East Lake Skinner Bypass channel flows are controlled with three carbon steel slide gates that were originally installed in 1967 and now require replacement due to heavy corrosion of major structural components. Failure of the slide gates could have operational impacts on the San Diego Canal and the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant (Skinner plant).

This action awards a $892,552 procurement contract to Whipps Inc. for three new slide gate assemblies for the East Lake Skinner Bypass channel. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, and **Attachment 3** for the Location Map.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Award an $892,552 procurement contract to Whipps Inc. for the fabrication of three slide gate assemblies for the East Lake Skinner Bypass channel.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of $1,200,000 in capital funds. Approximately $300,000 will be incurred in the current biennium and have been previously authorized. The remaining funds for this action will be accounted for in the Capital Investment Plan budget for the next biennium following board approval of the budget.
Business Analysis: This option will replace the deteriorated slide gates at the East Lake Skinner Bypass with new gates that will improve operations and have a superior service life.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.
Fiscal Impact: None
Business Analysis: Under this option, staff will continue to assess the condition of the deteriorated slide gates and provide temporary localized repairs to damaged areas as needed, which may lead to increased annual repair costs.

Alternatives Considered

An alternative to procuring new stainless steel gate assemblies is to blast and recoat each gate assembly and continue using the existing actuators. Blasting the existing coating to bare metal would allow the existing gate assemblies to be recoated but would not remediate the metal loss due to corrosion observed during the recent inspection of the gates. Additionally, this alternative would not address the existing binding or leakage issues. The

recommended alternative will provide a corrosion-resistant gate assembly with a superior service life, reducing the need for routine maintenance and coating.

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 52778, dated April 12, 2022, the Board appropriated a total of $600 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5).)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Lake Skinner was constructed in the 1970s and is located at the San Diego Canal terminus point in the city of Winchester. Lake Skinner has a total capacity of 44,000 acre-feet and is the primary supply of raw water to the Skinner plant during normal operations.

Sudden increases in algal mass, or “algae blooms,” at Lake Skinner can cause taste and odor conditions during these water quality events in Lake Skinner. Under these conditions, the Skinner plant is supplied with water directly from the San Diego Canal via bypass inlets located on the canal upstream of the lake. These bypass flow conditions occur periodically throughout a typical year, primarily in the summer months, based on a combination of factors, including hydrology, available nutrients, sunlight, and temperature.

There are three bypass inlets: the West Lake Skinner Bypass, the East Lake Skinner Bypass, and Bypass No. 2. The East Lake Skinner Bypass inlet channel and slide gates were constructed in 1967. This inlet off the San Diego Canal was initially used for raw water supply to the Skinner plant. After the construction of Lake Skinner, the inlet channel was converted to be used as the source of untreated water for SDPL5 when the Skinner plant was in bypass flow conditions. Three slide gates provide the only method to control flows into SDPL5, and they must be closed during normal flow conditions so that water from Lake Skinner doesn’t flow back into the San Diego Canal.

These three existing slide gates are made of carbon steel. The outer gates are 48 inches by 96 inches, and the middle gate is 24 inches by 96 inches. Recent staff inspections in November 2022 identified significant corrosion of the major gate components. Additionally, these gates experience operational issues such as leakage in the closed position and binding during opening, requiring manual intervention to raise and lower the gates. Staff recommends replacement of the existing carbon steel gate assemblies with new stainless steel assemblies and new electric actuators. Gates made of stainless steel will be corrosion-resistant and have a superior service life compared to a carbon steel gate assembly with a coating system.

Metropolitan staff completed the procurement specification package and recommends awarding a procurement contract for the new stainless steel gate assemblies and actuators at this time. The new gates will be installed during a planned shutdown of SDPL5 scheduled for January 2025 under a separate installation contract to be awarded at a later date.

East Lake Skinner Bypass Slide Gates– Procurement

The procurement contract includes the fabrication and delivery of three stainless steel gate assemblies. Each gate assembly includes a gate leaf, frame, stem, stem guides, thimble, and motor actuator. Metropolitan forces will receive, offload, and place the slide gates in storage at Lake Skinner. The slide gates will be installed under an upcoming construction contract.

A total of $1.2 million is required for this work. Allocated funds for Metropolitan staff activities include $67,000 for factory fabrication inspection and functional testing; $60,000 for submittals review, technical support, and responding to manufacturer requests for information; $113,000 for project management and contract administration; and $67,448 for remaining budget.

Award of Procurement Contract (Whipps Inc.)

Specifications No. 2029 for furnishing East Lake Skinner Bypass Slide Gates was advertised for bids on November 30, 2023. As shown in **Attachment 2**, one bid was received and opened on January 30, 2024. The low bid from Whipps Inc., in the amount of $892,552, complies with the requirements of the specifications. Staff investigated the reasons for the single bid and attributed it to the limited number of vendors currently manufacturing such specialty equipment. This amount includes all sales and use taxes imposed by the state of California. As a procurement contract, there are no subcontracting opportunities, and a Small Business Enterprise participation level was not established for this contract.

Proceeding with a contract at this time will enable the installation of the slide gates in 2025 with minimal interruptions to plant operations. This action awards an $892,552 procurement contract to Whipps Inc. to furnish three slide gates for the East Lake Skinner Bypass.

Project Milestone

May 2025 – Delivery of slide gates and actuators

2/20/2024

John V. Bednarski *Date*
Manager/Chief Engineer
Engineering Services

2/22/2024

Adel Hagekhalil *Date*
General Manager

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Location Map

Ref# es12695084

Allocation of Funds for East Lake Skinner Bypass Slide Gate Rehabilitation

	Current Board Action (Mar. 2024)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs	113,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	60,000
Construction Inspection & Support	67,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	-
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	-
Professional/Technical Services	-
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	
Whipps Inc.	892,552
Remaining Budget	67,448
Total	**$ 1,200,000**

The total amount expended to date to procure the replacement slide gates at the Lake Skinner Bypass is approximately $165,000. The total estimated cost to replace the slide gates and rehabilitate the other Skinner bypass lines, including the amount appropriated to date, funds allocated for the work described in this action, and future construction costs, is anticipated to range from $4.5 million to $5.5 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

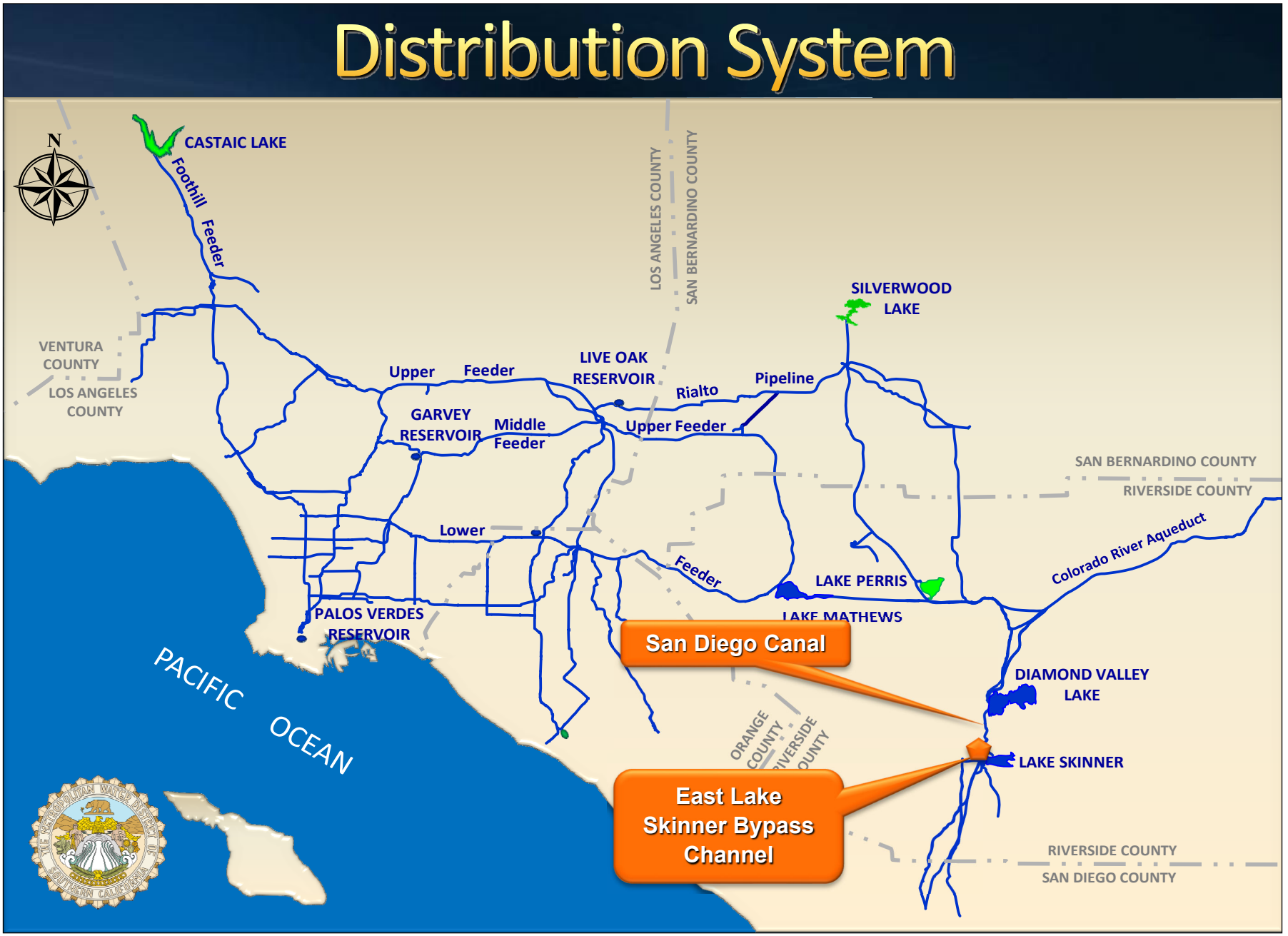
Abstract of Bids Received on January 30, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.

Specifications No. 2029
Furnishing Slide Gates and Actuators for Lake Skinner

The work includes furnishing and delivery of three stainless steel replacement slide gate assemblies and three actuators.

Bidder and Location	Base Bid Price Total[1,2]
Whipps Inc. **Athol, MA**	**$892,552**

[1] As a procurement contract, there are no subcontracting opportunities.
[2] Includes sales and use taxes of 7.75 percent imposed by the state of California


Distribution System
N
CASTAIC LAKE
Foothill Feeder
VENTURA COUNTY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SILVERWOOD LAKE
Upper Feeder
LIVE OAK RESERVOIR
Rialto Pipeline
GARVEY RESERVOIR
Middle Feeder
Upper Feeder
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Lower Feeder
Colorado River Aqueduct
LAKE PERRIS
LAKE MATHEWS
PALOS VERDES RESERVOIR
San Diego Canal
DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE
PACIFIC OCEAN
ORANGE COUNTY
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
LAKE SKINNER
East Lake Skinner Bypass Channel
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
SAN DIEGO COUNTY