

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

February 10, 2025

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

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

Members absent: Director Crawford.

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Armstrong, Dick, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, Lewitt, and McCoy.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Carter, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hattar, Nobriga, Parsons, Rubin, 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))

Wiggs Mendoza –Native American Employees. Spoke in support of the Chemeheuvi tribe request for interconnection with CRA transmission system.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for January 13, 2025 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

7-1 Subject: Award a \$2,556,478.19 construction contract to MasTec Network Solutions LLC for upgrades to the Desert microwave communications system; award a \$1,531,044 procurement contract to Logicalis Inc. for communications sites network equipment; authorize an increase of \$591,000 to an existing agreement with Nokia of America Corporation, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$5,888,000 for network materials and manufacturer’s field services; and authorize an increase of \$680,000 to an existing agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers LLC, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,410,000 to provide technical support during construction; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: a. Award a \$2,556,478.19 construction contract to MasTec Network Solutions LLC for upgrades to the desert microwave communication tower sites;
b. Award a \$1,531,044 procurement contract to Logicalis Inc. for communications site network equipment;
c. Authorize an increase of \$591,000 to the agreement with Nokia of America Corporation for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$5,888,000 for network materials and manufacturer’s field services; and
d. Authorize an increase of \$680,000 to the agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers LLC for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,410,000 to provide specialized technical support during construction and commissioning.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Director Faessel

Staff responded to the Directors question.

7-2 Subject: Award a \$1,931,217 contract to Fencecorp Inc. for perimeter fencing at the housing and playground areas and playground area shade improvements at four Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plant villages; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Award a \$1,931,217 contract to Fencecorp. Inc. for perimeter fencing for housing and playground areas and shade improvements for the playground area at four CRA pumping plant villages.

7-3 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$6 million for co-managed support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [REVISED SUBJECT 2/4/2025]

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI) in an amount not to exceed \$6 million for co-managed support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Director Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors question.

Director Faessel made a motion, seconded by Director Seckel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A, and items 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not voting: None

Absent: Directors Crawford and Petersen

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 2 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Metropolitan's Emergency Response to January 2025 Wildfires
[ADDED ITEM 1/29/2025]

Presented by: Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Emergency Operations Center and Incident Command Posts activated virtually
- Prioritized safety and relocated Eagle Rock staff to backup facilities
- Regular communications with Board, Member Agencies, and employees
- HR and Unions provided assistance to impacted employees
- Operational actions and system protection in response to wildfires
- Mutual assistance for water utilities impacted by the Eaton Fire
- Six mutual assistance missions included Critical Facility Protection, Debris Removal, Equipment, Fleet Services, Standby Generator Support, and Water Infrastructure Technical Service

Director Petersen entered the room.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Dennstedt
2. Bryant
3. Camacho
4. Morris
5. Dick
6. Erdman
7. Petersen
8. Fong-Sakai
9. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Mr. Eckstrom reported on the following:

- As requested by Metropolitan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), staff developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer to assist Member Agency fire recovery efforts.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Report from Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

Presented by: Director Camacho

Director Camacho reported on the following:

- Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update
- Regional Benefits of Pure Water Southern California
- Pure Water Southern California Updates on Staging Options
- Surface Water Storage Study
- State Water Project Dependent Area Drought Mitigation Updates

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Power-related items including storage

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair