

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**May 13, 2024**

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

Members present: Directors Bryant, Camacho (entered after roll call), Dennstedt (entered after roll call), Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan (entered after roll call), Miller (entered after roll call), Morris, Petersen (entered after roll call), Peterson (entered after roll call), Seckel, and Smith (AB 2449 “just cause”).

Director Smith indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to illness. Director Smith appeared by audio and on camera.

Members absent: Directors Alvarez, and Fong-Sakai

Other board members present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Dick, Garza, Kurtz, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), Ramos (teleconference posted location).

Director Garza indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to illness. Director Garza appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Kuo-Britton, Parsons, Saito, Upadhyay, and Wheeler

**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))**

None

Director Morris 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 April 8, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions).

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

**7-1** Subject: Authorize an increase of \$2.35 million to an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$5.15 million for final design services for erosion control improvements along the Colorado River Aqueduct; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Catherine Lou, Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$2.35 million to an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$5.15 million for final design of erosion control structures along the CRA system.

Director Dennstedt entered the meeting.  
Director Petersen entered the meeting.  
Director Camacho entered the meeting.  
Director Miller entered the meeting.  
Director McMillian entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Faessel
3. Dennstedt
4. Erdman
5. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

**7-2** Subject: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to include upgrades to the flocculation system at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Hunter Schneider, Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include upgrades to the flocculation system at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Miller
3. Dennstedt
4. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentations, Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Dennstedt to approve item 2A, 7-1 and 7-2.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Seckel, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: None

Absent: Directors Alvarez, Fong-Sakai and Peterson

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1 and 7-2 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent. Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

**8-1** Subject: Award a \$24,912,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for urgent rehabilitation of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe portions of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline; authorize an increase of \$250,000 to an agreement with Helix Environmental Planning Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500,000; and authorize an amendment to Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to add the subject project to the list of covered projects; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Christian Ovalle, Team Manager-Program Management, Engineering Services Group

Motion:

- a. Award a \$24,912,000 contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to rehabilitate approximately 2.4 miles of PCCP portions of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline.
- b. Authorize an increase of \$250,000 to an agreement with Helix Environmental Planning Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500,000.
- c. Amend Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to include the Allen-McColloch Urgent PCCP Rehabilitation Stage 2 Project.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

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

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Smith made a motion seconded by Director Morris to approve item 8-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Seckel, and Smith  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Directors Alvarez, Fong-Sakai and Peterson

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

Director Smith stated he was alone in the room.

## **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Development of Building Information Modeling project design technologies at Metropolitan.
- Presented by: Javier Bautista, Team Manager-Design Technology, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Bautista reported on the following:

- BIM has been utilized to support the Pure Water program, Greg Avenue Pressure Control Structure & CRA Rehabilitation project.
- BIM is applied in all three phases of infrastructure life cycle management. It enhances visualization analysis, better quantity, cost estimation and illustrates potential obstacles.
- During construction phases it provides a virtual platform for planning and scheduling. It enhances scheming and as-built information.
- MWD is taking a proactive approach to implement BIM. In 2020, interviews were conducted among several agencies to understand further how they are utilizing BIM. Metropolitan's approach to BIM initiative is consistent with

emerging industry trends with this technology.

- BIM provides data rich 3-D modeling that produces a wealth of information for Metropolitan and stakeholders. Use of BIM will modernize work practices enhance workflow and utilize tools on collaboration platforms to support MWD design projects and asset management.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Faessel
2. Dennstedt
3. Ortega
4. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b.           Subject:           State Water Project Resilience Update.
- Presented by:     Ernie Ariza, Team Manager-Facility Planning, Engineering Services Group  
                                  James Bodnar, Unit Manager-Operations Planning & Program,  
                                  Integrated Operations Plan and Support Services Group

Director Peterson entered the meeting.

Mr. Ariza reported on the following:

- DWR's primary measures to enhance SWP seismic resilience is to conduct pre-event mitigation and prepare for post-event response, in similar fashion to Metropolitan's approach.
- DWR conducts seismic monitoring along SWP facilities. The data is used to evaluate the effectiveness of each seismic station before replacing instruments & prior to building new stations.
- DWR operates and maintains more than 100 seismic stations along the SWP. Some of this information is used as part of the California earthquake warning system.
- 13 "seismic switches" have been installed along SWP, allowing operators to respond to seismic events by adjusting aqueduct operations.
- DWR participates in the annual aqueduct seismic resilience taskforce, along with Metropolitan and LADWP as a way to promote interagency collaboration.
- In 2022, construction began to improve seismic resilience at Sisk Dam, by adding seismic stability berms, and has plans for future expansion of the reservoir.

Mr. Bodnar reported on the following:

- Operational conditions and constraints within Metropolitan's system that limited 2023 deliveries on the SWP East Branch, with a total impact of approximately 60 TAF not delivered within current East Branch capacity.

- Current East Branch capacity limitations, prior studies looking at East Branch capacity enlargement, and investigation of preferred alternatives to enhance SWP reliability.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Miller
3. Ortega
4. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

c. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Update.

Presented by: Jacob Margolis, Director of Information Technology Services, Information Technology Group

Mr. Margolis reported on the following:

- Member agency cybersecurity summit occurring July 11. This is an opportunity to do information sharing among our member agencies.
- Board of directors' cybersecurity awareness training specifically curated for the directors which launched today.
- ShareVault access available to the directors for secure file sharing.

Closed session [Conference with Metropolitan Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology, Jacob Margolis, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; was heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)]

## 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

Presented by: Deven Upadhyay, Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager-  
Water Resources  
Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager Operations

Mr. Upadhyay reported on the following:

- In the coming months, staff will discuss the implications of Glen Canyon Dam investigated by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- MWD received an award for our safety of dams for the management of our dams.
- Wadsworth Pump plant bypass shutdown connecting DVL up to the Rialto

feeder. This project will also allow us to pump in Colorado River water in the forebay via the San Diego canal.

- Reported that progress has been made on the stage 1 rehabilitation of the Allen-McColloch pipeline PCCP.

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- EPA has set forth new MCLs (maximum contaminant levels) for six PFAS compounds. No detection of these compounds found in MWD treated water. Compliance with the new regulations is required by 2029. Presentation on water quality regulations will be given to EOT in July.
- Recent Member Agency Water Quality Managers Meeting celebrating 50-year anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Metropolitan's Water Quality Section. Additional celebration events planned this fall.
- Desert employee appreciation event held at Iron Mountain on April 24 with 125 in attendance.

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

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

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel

Staff responded to the Director's question and comment.

Vice Chair Camacho left the meeting.

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

NONE

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be on June 10, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair