



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

4/9/2024 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Award a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. to implement security system improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant; the General Manager has determined that this proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

A comprehensive security assessment identified the need to enhance existing security measures for the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Region. The planned improvements are consistent with Metropolitan's latest security and technology standards for essential facilities. Final design is currently underway for Stage 1 security improvements. Staff recommends conducting an initial pilot project to install a limited number of security cameras, card readers, and door position switches at the Gene Pumping Plant. This initial project will allow staff to optimize the equipment's capability and functionality within the harsh desert environment, validate its integration with Metropolitan's proprietary security software, and establish parameters for data storage on encrypted cloud-based applications. Lessons learned from this pilot project will be implemented across all facilities within the CRA Region in a subsequent contract(s), including the Stage 1 improvements referenced above.

This action awards a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. to implement security system improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, **Attachment 3** for the Subcontractors for Low Bidder, and **Attachment 4** for the Location Map.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Award a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. to implement security improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$470,000 in capital funds. Approximately \$150,000 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 improve the security system at the Gene Pumping Plant.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: This option would forego an opportunity to enhance the site security at the Gene Pumping Plant and improve protection for critical infrastructure and personnel.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered implementing the security improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant without the initial pilot project. However, this option would not provide an opportunity to validate the functionality of equipment and its compatibility with Metropolitan's proprietary security software, potentially leaving Metropolitan vulnerable to outside security and cyber threats. The selected alternative will allow staff to optimize the roll-out of the larger project to ensure seamless system-wide integration within the CRA Region's network, ensure compatibility with cloud-based applications, and test the firewall limits that protect the system-wide network.

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 52701, dated February 8, 2022, the Board authorized an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. for preliminary design to improve physical security at the CRA pumping plants.

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.

By Minute Item 53313, dated July 11, 2023, the Board authorized an increase to an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. for final design of the first stage of security improvements at the CRA pumping plants.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involved the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment 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

Details and Background

Background

The CRA is a 242-mile-long conveyance system that transports water from the Colorado River Aqueduct to Lake Mathews. It consists of five pumping plants, 124 miles of tunnels, siphons, and reservoirs, 63 miles of canals, and 44 miles of cut-and-cover conduits. The aqueduct was constructed in the 1930s and was placed into service in 1941. The Camino Substation transmits power from Hoover Dam to the five pumping plants.

The desert region was undeveloped when the CRA desert facilities were constructed over 80 years ago. Since then, significant development has occurred near the Metropolitan's desert facilities. In 2019, a comprehensive security assessment of the five CRA pumping plants and the Camino Electrical Switching Station was completed. The assessment resulted in numerous recommendations for security upgrades at these facilities. The pumping plants have limited video surveillance equipment, and existing card readers at plant entrances are outdated and near the end of their service life.

Design for the security improvements is proceeding in two stages. Stage 1, which Metropolitan's Board authorized in July 2023, includes design activities related to installing cameras, motion detectors, and card readers at the five pumping plants and the Camino Substation. Stage 1 design work at the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant also addresses upgrades of perimeter fencing with access gates at patrol routes; a permanent guard station at the

plant's main entrance; and physical security measures, including facility signage, access control, and roadway improvements. Stage 1 design is ongoing. Stage 2 activities will include providing similar physical security measures at the remaining four CRA pumping plants and the Camino Substation. Staff will return to the Board at a later date for final design of Stage 2 security improvements at the remaining five sites. Staff will also return to the Board as necessary to award construction contract(s) for the Stage 1 and Stage 2 security improvements.

In a parallel effort with the Stage 1 design efforts, staff recommends conducting an initial pilot project to install a limited number of security cameras, card readers, and door position switches at the Gene Pumping Plant. This will provide staff an opportunity to evaluate the capability and functionality of the equipment, validate its integration with Metropolitan's proprietary security software, and establish parameters for storage of data on encrypted cloud-based applications. Lessons learned from the pilot project will be included within Stage 1 final design activities across all facilities within the CRA Region. This project has been reviewed in accordance with Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan prioritization criteria and was approved by Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan evaluation team to be included in the CRA Reliability Program.

Gene Pumping Plant Security Improvements – Construction

The scope of the construction contract includes furnishing and installing 24 security cameras, four card readers, and three door position switches. This equipment will be integrated with Metropolitan's proprietary security software and tested for its capability, functionality, and compatibility within the desert region. Metropolitan forces will procure and install required equipment such as a power distribution unit, switches, cables, and router cards for the network connections and tie-ins into Metropolitan's security network. Installation of the network equipment by Metropolitan forces will be closely coordinated with the contractor's activities.

A total of \$470,000 is allocated for this work. In addition to the amount of the contract described below, other funds to be allocated include \$119,000 for network integration equipment and installation by Metropolitan forces; \$29,000 for construction management and inspection; \$5,000 for submittals review, technical support during construction, responding to requests for information, and preparation of record drawings; \$6,000 for contract administration and project management; and \$15,438 for remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds. The total estimated cost to complete the work, including the amount appropriated to date and funds allocated for the work described in this action, is \$470,000.

Award of Construction Contract (The Kepler Group Inc.)

Specifications No. M-3073 for the procurement and installation of security equipment at Gene Pumping Plant was advertised for bids on November 17, 2023. As shown in **Attachment 2**, two bids were received and opened on December 12, 2023. The low bid from The Kepler Group Inc. in the amount of \$295,562 complies with the requirements of the specifications. The other bid was \$328,000. For this contract, Metropolitan did not establish a Small Business Enterprise participation level due to the specialized certification required to install and integrate the new equipment with Metropolitan's proprietary security software. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**.

This action awards a \$295,562 contract to The Kepler Group Inc. for security improvements at the Gene Pumping Plant. As described above, 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 9 to 15 percent. For this project, the performance metric goal for inspection is 7.0 percent of the total construction cost (\$414,562), which includes the construction contract (\$295,562) and Metropolitan force construction (\$119,000).

Project Milestone

August 2024 – Completion of construction



John V. Bednarski
Manager/Chief Engineer
Engineering Services

3/18/2024

Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

3/21/2024

Date

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Subcontractors for Low Bidder

Attachment 4 – Location Map

Ref# es12701214

Allocation of Funds for Gene Pumping Plant Security Improvements

	Current Board Action (April 2024)
Labor	
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., contract admin)	6,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	5,000
Construction Inspection & Support	29,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	28,000
Materials & Supplies	90,000
Incidental Expenses	1,000
Contracts	-
The Kepler Group Inc.	295,562
Remaining Budget	15,438
Total	\$ 470,000

The total amount expended to date for the CRA Security Improvements Project is approximately \$1.3 million. The total estimated cost to complete the CRA Security Improvements Project, including the amount appropriated to date, funds allocated for the work described in this action, and future construction costs, is anticipated to range from \$40 million to \$55 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Abstract of Bids Received on December 12, 2023, at 2:00 P.M.

Specifications No. M-3073

Gene Pumping Plant Security Improvements

The work consists of procurement and installation of 24 security cameras, four card readers, three door position switches, and integration with existing security system.

Engineer's estimate: \$264,021

Bidder and Location	Total¹
The Kepler Group Inc. Altadena, CA	\$295,562
Premier Cabling Solutions Alhambra, CA	\$328,000

¹ Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level not established for this contract.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Subcontractors for Low Bidder

**Specifications No. M-3073
Gene Pumping Plant Security Improvements**

Low bidder: The Kepler Group Inc.

Subcontractor	Service Category; Specialty
Rossers Inc. dba Current Electric Construction Murrieta, CA	Electrical materials and installation
Premier Cabling Solutions Alhambra, CA	Structured cabling

Location Map

