



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

5/12/2026 Board Meeting

7-1

Subject

Award a \$511,294 procurement contract to Tricor Industrial Inc. to furnish two tanks to replace the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan's water treatment plants rely on a conventional treatment process with ozone as the primary disinfectant to deliver finished water to its member agencies. Sodium hypochlorite serves as backup disinfection to ozone treatment at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant (Skinner plant). The two existing sodium hypochlorite storage tanks have reached the end of their service life, are prone to leaks, and need to be replaced to maintain plant reliability and enhance worker safety. Staff recommends award of a procurement contract at this time.

This action awards a \$511,294 contract to Tricor Industrial Inc. to furnish two 6,950-gallon titanium tanks to replace the existing sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at the Skinner plant. 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 a \$511,294 procurement contract to Tricor Industrial Inc. to furnish two tanks to replace the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$740,000 in capital funds. Approximately \$60,000 will be incurred in the current biennium and has been previously authorized. The remaining funds for this action will be accounted for in the Capital Investment Plan budget for the next biennium.

Business Analysis: This option will protect Metropolitan's assets, maintain plant reliability, enhance worker safety, and reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the replacement of the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: This option would replace the chemical storage tanks at a later date. Staff will continue to monitor the condition of the existing tanks and would take actions as necessary to prevent leakage and maintain worker safety. This option will forego an opportunity to enhance reliability of deliveries to member agencies and to reduce the risk of costly urgent repairs.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered procuring tanks made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or fiberglass. While this alternative would reduce upfront capital costs, it does not address long-term reliability concerns specific to sodium hypochlorite storage. Staff conducted comprehensive industry research and identified titanium as an optimal tank material for this application due to its unique interaction with oxidizing agents, such as sodium hypochlorite, which significantly reduces the risk of cracking and other common modes of failure. The selected alternative to replace the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks with titanium tanks will reduce maintenance costs, extend tank lifespan, and enhance the reliability of long-term operations.

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 53278, dated June 13, 2023, the Board amended the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to include the Skinner Chemical Storage Tank Replacement project.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

The Skinner plant is located in the city of Winchester and was placed into service in 1976. The plant has a treatment capacity of 350 million gallons per day and delivers a blend of water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project to Metropolitan's member agencies.

Metropolitan has an ongoing program to assess the condition of chemical storage tanks at its facilities. The Skinner plant relies on two cross-linked HDPE tanks for the storage of sodium hypochlorite, which serves as backup disinfection to ozone treatment and ensures that primary disinfection requirements are continuously met during planned and unplanned outages of the ozone system. The tanks have been in continuous service for 19 years, and multiple leaks from propagating cracks have been identified and repaired in recent years.

In June 2023, Metropolitan's Board authorized the replacement of the Skinner plant's sodium hypochlorite storage tanks. During design, staff evaluated the merits of using alternate tank materials to further increase chemical storage reliability and reduce lifecycle costs. The evaluation revealed that titanium has a significantly increased corrosion resistance compared to that of traditional HDPE, when used to store a highly oxidizing agent such as sodium hypochlorite.

Staff completed the procurement specifications for sodium hypochlorite storage tanks and received competitive bids. Staff recommends awarding a procurement contract to replace the Skinner plant's sodium hypochlorite storage tanks.

Skinner Sodium Hypochlorite Storage Tank Replacement – Procurement

The scope of the procurement contract includes furnishing two 6,950-gallon tanks constructed of titanium and designed to store 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite solution, including spare parts, maintenance materials, special tools and devices, and operation and maintenance manuals. Staff will perform submittal review, fabrication inspection, and contract administration. Metropolitan forces will receive, offload, and store the tanks at the project site. Metropolitan forces will install the tanks following their fabrication and delivery to the project site.


A total of \$740,000 is required to perform this work. In addition to the amount of the procurement contract described below, the allocated funds for Metropolitan staff include \$67,000 for fabrication inspection; \$62,000 for submittals review and responding to manufacturer requests for information; \$44,000 for contract administration and project management; \$33,348 for taxes described below; and \$22,358 for remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds.

Award of Procurement Contract (Tricor Industrial Inc.)

Request for bids No. RFB-PR-466953A for the procurement of two titanium tanks was advertised on February 26, 2026. As shown in **Attachment 2**, two bids were received and opened on March 25, 2026. The low bid from Tricor Industrial Inc., in the amount of \$511,294, complies with the requirements of the specifications. Sales and use taxes will be paid directly to the state of California by Metropolitan. As a procurement contract, there are no subcontracting opportunities, and a Small Business Enterprise participation level was not established for this contract. Based on vendor surveys, the budgetary estimate for this material ranged from \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Project Milestone

February 2027 – Delivery of the chemical tanks

	4/28/2026
_____ Mai M. Hattar Chief Engineer Engineering Services	Date

	4/28/2026
_____ Shivaji Deshmukh General Manager	Date

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Location Map

Ref# es12711190

Allocation of Funds for Skinner Sodium Hypochlorite Storage Tank Replacement

	Current Board Action (May 2026)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	\$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	44,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	62,000
Construction Inspection & Support	67,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	-
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	33,348
Professional/Technical Services	-
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	-
Tricor Industrial Inc.	511,294
Remaining Budget	22,358
Total	\$ 740,000

The total amount expended to date to replace the sodium hypochlorite tanks at the Skinner plant is approximately \$265,000. The total estimated cost to complete this 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 \$1.6M to \$1.7M.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Abstract of Bids Received on March 25, 2026, at 11:00 A.M.
RFB-PR-466953A
Skinner Sodium Hypochlorite Storage Tanks Replacement

The contract includes furnishing two 6,950-gallon titanium tanks designed to store 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite solution, including spare parts, maintenance materials, special tools and devices, and operation and maintenance manuals, at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant.

Estimated range of cost: \$500,000 to \$600,000

Bidder and Location	Total¹
Tricor Industrial Inc. Wooster, OH	\$511,294.00
Tex-Tanks LLC Austin, TX	\$549,960.00

¹ Sales and use taxes will be paid directly to the state of California by Metropolitan.

Distribution System

