

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

January 8, 2024

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Members absent: Director Chacon

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

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Lahouti, Parsons, 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))

1. Katy Wagner – Sierra Club California – In support of Pure Water Treatment Center

Directors Dennstedt, McMillan, Miller, Petersen, and Smith 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 November 13, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-1** Subject: Authorize an agreement with the Center for Smart Infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$2 million to fund the organization’s startup costs and focused water innovation research; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Michael Thomas, Unit Manager, Capital Program Management Unit

Director Miller asked that items 7-1, 7-5, and 7-6 be pulled for discussion.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions on 7-1:

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Alvarez
3. Peterson
4. Faessel
5. Dick
6. Morris

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Peterson made a motion seconded by Director Miller to table Item 7-1 until there is an adopted budget.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Chacon

The motion passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

7-2 Subject: Authorize an increase of \$4,800,000 in change order authority for the contract to upgrade the domestic water treatment systems at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Patrizia Hall – Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$4,800,000 in change order authority for the contract to upgrade the domestic water treatment systems at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants

Director Smith requested that item 7-2 be discussed and voted on separately.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Smith
3. Miller
4. Garza
5. Camacho

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Smith made a motion seconded by Director Faessel to approve Item 7-2, option 1

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Chacon

Item 7-2, option 1 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

- 7-3** Subject: Authorize agreements with (1) Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3.425 million; and (2) Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$2.26 million for design of security system improvements at several facilities throughout Metropolitan’s Distribution System; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [Consultation with Metropolitan Team Manager, Engineering Services, Sandip Budhia, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; may be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)]
- Presented by: None; no presentation requested
- Motion: a. Authorize an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3.425 million for design of security system improvements at three water treatment plants; and
b. Authorize an agreement with Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$2.26 million for design of security system improvements at one water treatment plant and several HEPs and PCSs
- 7-4** Subject: Award a \$549,592.04 contract to Caasi Flow Control for procurement of plug valves to be installed on the Foothill Feeder and Rialto Pipeline; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by: None; no presentation requested
- Motion: Award a \$549,592.04 procurement contract to Caasi Flow Control for 20 plug valves
- 7-5** Subject: Authorize an agreement with Application Software Technology LLC in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 for the Oracle E-Business Suite Procurement Services Module Implementation; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to authorize an increase of \$4,800,000 in change order authority for the contract upgrade the domestic water treatment systems at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by: None; no presentation requested
- Motion: Authorize an agreement with Applications Software Technology LLC in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 for the Oracle E-Business Suite Procurement Services Module Implementation

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

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

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7-6 Subject: Authorize agreements with: (1) Alvarez, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,923,940 to provide professional services and technical support; and (2) Cloudhouse Technologies Limited in an amount not to exceed \$801,900 for licenses for up to a period of three years, to migrate legacy applications to supported Windows servers for the Application Server Upgrade project; the General Manager has determined the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [REVISED SUBJECT 1/3/24]

Presented by: None; no presentation requested

Motion: Authorize agreements with: (1) Alvarez, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,923,940 to provide professional services and technical support; and (2) Cloudhouse Technologies Limited in an amount not to exceed \$801,900 for licenses for up to a period of three years, to migrate legacy applications to supported Windows servers for the Application Server Upgrade project.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

After completion of the presentations, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A, and items 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.
Noes:	Directors Fong-Sakai item 7-5 & 7-6, Smith item 7-6
Abstentions:	None
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Chacon

The motion for Items 2A, 7-3, and 7-4 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 2 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

The motion for Item 7-5 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 1 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

The motion for Item 7-6 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 2 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

Chair Erdman announced item 6d would be heard after item 6a.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Allen McColloch Pipeline - Inspection Update Action Plan
Presented by: Howard Lum, Section Manager, Design Section

Mr. Lum reported on the following:

- Condition assessment of AMP Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline (PCCP) including results of recent inspection and preliminary risk analysis
- Mitigation measures and pipeline rehabilitation plan for five priority pipelines
- AMP Pipeline failure and repairs in 1999 as well as additional AMP urgent repairs
- AMP PCCP Risk Reduction Action Plan
- Approach to contracting urgent rehabilitation
- Project schedule

Director Petersen left the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Camacho
2. Peterson
3. Erdman
4. Smith
5. McMillan
6. Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- d. Subject: Nitrification Management
Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Section Manager, Water Quality

Mr. Rochelle reported on the following:

- Conditions that influence nitrification and potential water quality impacts
- History of chloramines at Metropolitan and early research
- Preventing and managing nitrification
- 2023 nitrification event, management and control actions
- New challenges and future actions to minimize nitrification

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- b. Subject: 2023 System Operations: A Year in Review
Item Deferred

- c. Subject: Zero Emission Fleet Transition
Presented by: Sergio Escalante, Section Manager, Operations Support Services

Mr. Escalante reported on the following:

- Metropolitan's transition to a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) fleet
- Diverse pool of fleet assets
- New CARB regulations and 2022 Climate Action Plan
- Actions taken to date for ZEV transition and task force activities
- Transition plan and challenges, operational reliability and resiliency, regulatory timeline and impacts, and budgetary challenges

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Seckel
2. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Directors Dennstedt, and Fong- Sakai, left the meeting.

Director Bryant left the meeting.

Director Smith left the meeting.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System
 Operations Activities
 Presented by: Deven Upadhyay, Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager-
 Water Resources
 Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager Operations

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Early 2024 operations preserving SWP supplies
- Current shutdowns
- Quagga mussel monitoring update
- State Water Board approves DPR regulations
- 50th Anniversary of Water Quality Section

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Nothing to report.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Erdman stated that we will bring back the Year End Review item in February.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on February 12, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair