

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2024

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

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller (entered after rollcall), Morris, Seckel, and Smith (AB 2449 “just cause”).

Director Smith stated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to having a contagious illness. He stated that he was alone in the room.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman (AB 2449 “just cause”), Armstrong, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location), Lewitt, McCoy, and Ortega.

Committee staff present: Arakelian, Chapman, Upadhyay, Parsons, Bednarski, 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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for August 19, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Chair Erdman stated that Director Miller had requested that Item 7-3 be pulled from the consent calendar.

7-1 Subject: Authorize an agreement with IDS Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for design services to rehabilitate the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system at Metropolitan Headquarters Building; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: No Presentation

Motion: Authorize an agreement with IDS Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for preliminary design to rehabilitate the HVAC system at Metropolitan Headquarters Building.

7-2 Subject: Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the West Valley Feeder No. 1 Stage 3 Improvements Project and take related CEQA actions.

Presented by: No Presentation

Motion: Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the West Valley Feeder No. 1 Stage 3 Improvements Project and take related CEQA actions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Smith

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Seckel to approve Items 2A, 7-1, and 7-2.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, Miller, and Petersen.

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1, and 7-2 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 0 not voting, and 4 absent.

Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

Director Miller entered the meeting room.

7-3 Subject: Award a \$1,285,000 contract to Resource Environmental Incorporated for abatement and roof replacement of houses 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: Victor Ramirez, Interim Facilities and Fleet Management Section Manager, Integrated Operations, Planning, and Support Services Group responded to director questions.

Motion: Award a \$1,285,000 contract to Resource Environmental Incorporated for abatement and roof replacement on houses at four Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plant villages.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Miller made a motion seconded by Director Morris to approve Item 7-3.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen.

The motion for Item 7-3 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 0 not voting, 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: Authorize a \$40 million increase to an existing agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to purchase long-lead equipment for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$50.4 million; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (This action is part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve the supply reliability for State Water Project-dependent areas.)

Presented by: Jeannie Chu, Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Authorize a \$40 million increase to an existing design-build services agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to purchase long-lead equipment for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$50.4 million.

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Erdman

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Faessel to approve item 8-1.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen.

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 0 not voting, and 3 absent.

Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

8-2 Subject: Authorize an amended and restated agreement with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District for shared implementation of the advanced water purification facility for Pure Water Southern California; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Bruce Chalmers, Pure Water Southern California Program Manager, Engineering Services Group

Motion: Authorize an amended and restated agreement with County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County for shared implementation of Pure Water Southern California.

Director Fong-Sakai recused herself for Item 8-2 and she left the meeting room for the duration of the discussion and vote on this item.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Morris
2. Faessel
3. Armstrong
4. Smith
5. Ortega
6. Erdman
7. Alvarez
8. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Morris made a motion seconded by Director Faessel to approve item 8-2.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Seckel and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: Director Fong-Sakai

Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen.

The motion for Item 7-3 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 1 not voting, and 3 absent.

Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Capital Investment Plan quarterly report for period ending June 2024.

Presented by: Jeff Nikolas, Senior Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Nikolas reported on the following:

- Capital Investment Plan during fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- Summary of key actions and accomplishments detailed in the report provided in the board packet.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Erdman
2. Bryant

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Update [Conference with Metropolitan 21-3731 Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology, Jacob Margolis, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)].

Presented by: Closed Session Presentation

- c. Subject: Emergency Management Program Update

Presented by: Ian Whyte, Emergency Management Program Manager, Office of Safety, Security & Protection.

Mr. Whyte reported on the following:

- Emergency Management Program's response, preparedness and planning, and recovery structure.
- Overview of real-world responses.
- Future program development.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Erdman
2. Seckel
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager,
 Water and Technical Resources
 Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- MetWorks event in Orange County.

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Full-scale regional emergency preparedness lab exercise to practice hands-on laboratory response procedures and communication.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Director Smith requested an information item for the next Pure Water Southern California subcommittee meeting for a treated water augmentation sub-alternative that could provide DPR to the Second Lower Feeder, local agencies, and industries, along with a brief description of sizing, cost, and necessary steps to incorporate this alternative into the current environmental process.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Chair Ortega expressed interest in marking the completion of the Heli-Hydrant at Diemer plant with an event, in partnership with Yorba Linda Water District.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on October 7, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair