

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

October 9, 2023

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

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho (entered after roll call), Dennstedt (entered after roll call), Fong-Sakai (AB 2449), Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen (entered after roll call), Peterson (entered after roll call), Seckel, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Chacon, Faessel, and Quinn.

Other Board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Kurtz (AB 2449), McCoy, and Sutley.

Director Fong-Sakai indicated she is participating under AB2449 “just cause” regarding testing positive for COVID-19. Director Fong-Sakai appeared by audio and on camera.

Director Kurtz indicated she is participating under AB2449 “just cause” regarding an illness. Director Kurtz appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hagekhalil, Martinez, Parsons, and Upadhyay

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Darcy Burke – Director, Lake Elsinore Valley Water District – In support of item 9-3
Katie Wagner – Sierra Club – In opposition of item 9-3

Directors Dennstedt, Petersen and Peterson 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 September 11, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

Director Camacho entered the meeting.

Director Smith recused himself on item 7-2 as he owns stock in Black & Veatch Corporation

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

7-1 Subject: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include development of a multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract and authorize professional service agreements with: (1) GEI Consultants Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million; and (2) Environmental Science Associates in an amount not to exceed \$980,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Malinda Stalvey, Sr Environmental Specialist

Motion: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include development of a multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract and authorize professional service agreements with: (1) GEI Consultants Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million; and (2) Environmental Science Associates in an amount not to exceed \$980,000

7-2 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Black & Veatch Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for design of new access platforms to facilitate maintenance activities on the main pumps 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 Black & Veatch in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for design services for access platform improvements to facilitate maintenance activities on the main pumps at the five CRA pumping plants.

7-3 Subject: Award a \$4,400,000 construction contract to Bosco Constructors Inc. for San Diego Canal Concrete Liner Rehabilitation; 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 \$4,400,000 contract to Bosco Constructors Inc. to rehabilitate the San Diego Canal at three locations.

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-1, 7-2, and 7-3.

Director Fong-Sakai announced during roll call that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Not voting: Director Smith (item 7-2)
Absent: Directors Chacon, Faessel, and Quinn

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1, and 7-3 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

The motion for Item 7-2 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 1 not voting, and 3 absent.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Peterson
3. Sutley
4. Erdman
5. Camacho
6. Ortega
7. Dennstedt
8. Kurtz
9. Garza
10. Seckel
11. Alvarez

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-3 Subject: Update on Review of Desalination Technologies for Potential Water Supply Augmentation
Presented by: Warren Teitz, Team Manager, Water Resource Management Group

Mr. Teitz reported on the following:

- Climate adaptation master plan for water (CAMP4W) determined that region needs climate resilient resources for the future
- Objectives for desalination studies include: brackish groundwater, seawater, project implementation, and technology scan
- Draft siting criteria will be in accordance with the Governor's 2022 Water Supply Strategy
- Research ways to streamline the permitting for projects
- Presented potential qualifying sites within Metropolitan's service area
- Include offshore desalination in potential sites
- Incorporate feedback, refine scope, and costs

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Miller
2. Ortega
3. Petersen
4. Alvarez
5. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Chair Erdman announced there would be a reordering of the agenda and item 6a would be heard last.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- b. Subject: Update on Asset Management Program
Presented by: Sergio Escalante, Section Manager, Water System Operations Group

Mr. Escalante reported on the following:

- Metropolitan's comprehensive reliability approach
- Asset management key objectives: improve long-term forecast of capital costs, refine risk evaluation used to prioritize CIP projects, coordinate & integrate condition assessment, standardize asset data, and facilitate access to data
- Enhanced infrastructure reliability through maintenance and rehabilitation
- Metropolitan's labor and maintenance trends, challenges in meeting maintenance goals, and efforts to optimize maintenance management to meet industry best practices
- Upcoming asset management program improvements in O&M and capital project planning and implementation

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Erdman
2. Garza

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments

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. Upadhyay and Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Upcoming EOT Committee Inspection Trip on November 16, 2023, which sets up discussion around capital program needs
- Significantly improved conditions for recent nitrification event in distribution system
- Support to Coachella Valley Water District to repair groundwater replenishment facility conveyances damaged from Tropical Storm Hilary

No Directors provided comments or asked questions.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Report from Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

Nothing to report.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (Continued)

- a. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Oral Update
Presented by: Jacob Margolis, Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology Group

In open session Mr. Margolis reported on the following:

- Metropolitan now has a functional cybersecurity center.
- Receiving active cyber security sensors from own centers.
- Annual brief and townhall held in October.
- Webinar overview of what our cybersecurity center is and how to properly report cyber threat incidents.
- Launch awareness training campaign this month.
- After campaign simulated phishing will begin.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION (Continued)

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

The following Director's provided comments or asked questions

- 1. Miller

Chair Erdman responded to the Director's questions and comments.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (Continued)

- a. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Oral Update
Presented by: Jacob Margolis, Director of Info Tech Services, Information Technology Group

In closed session, the committee heard the item. No action was taken.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on November 13, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair