

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**January 10, 2022**

Chair Smith called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Smith, Directors Apodaca, Blois, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Repenning (entered after roll call) and Williams

Members absent: Director Camacho

Other Board members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Hawkins, Jung, McCoy, Miller, Record and Tamaribuchi

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Hagekhalil, Okano, Parsons, Scully, Upadhyay, and Yamasaki

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

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Engineering and Operations Committee held December 13, 2021.

#### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- 7-1            Subject:            Authorize on-call agreements with Aspen Environmental Group and Environmental Science Associates in amounts not to exceed \$750,000 per year each, for a maximum of four years for environmental planning services to support O&M and board-authorized Capital Investment Plan projects; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:    No presentation given.

Motion: Authorize on-call agreements with Aspen Environmental Group and Environmental Science Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 per year each, for a maximum of four years for environmental planning services to support O&M and board-authorized Capital Investment Plan projects.

7-2 Subject: Award a \$1,936,977 contract to All American Asphalt for pavement rehabilitation 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

Presented by: No presentation given.

Motion: Award a \$1,936,977 contract to All American Asphalt for the rehabilitation of asphalt pavement at the Skinner plant.

Director Dick made a motion, seconded by Director Morris, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-1 and 7-2.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Apodaca, Blois, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Smith and Williams

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Camacho

Not voting: Director Repenning

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1 and 7-2 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 1 absent and 1 not voting.

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

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

## 5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: 2021 System Operations: A Year in Review

Presented by: Tae Yun, Unit Manager, Water System Operations

Mr. Yun reported on the following:

- 2021 was an extremely dry year and the State Water project allocation was at 5%, which was tied for the lowest in history
- Adjusted system operations in extraordinary ways to minimize State Water Project water use and maximize the use of Colorado River water and storage reserves
- Took additional extraordinary actions to reduce the use of limited SWP supplies by implementing innovative projects rapidly, such as the improvements to feed the Mills Treatment Plant from DVL by gravity
- Implemented new programs and partnered with the member agencies to shift deliveries from SWP to CR water connections, and to defer SWP deliveries where possible
- These strategies collectively conserved over 200,000 acre-feet of SWP supplies in 2021, which was more than double the 5% SWP allocation
- Additional challenges addressed in 2021 included maintaining 8-pump flow on the CRA, addressing water quality challenges, successfully completing 15 major shutdowns, and keeping staff safe through the ongoing pandemic

b. Subject: State Water Project Dependent Area Solutions Update

Presented by: Stacie Takeguchi, Team Manager, Engineering Services

Ms. Takeguchi reported on the following:

- Metropolitan is committed to improving the reliability of the areas of the system that are dependent on SWP supplies
- Numerous actions have been taken in 2021 and in years prior to address this issue, including extraordinary operational actions, new projects, programs, and member agency collaborations
- An extensive effort, with involvement of the affected member agencies, was initiated last year to identify and evaluate additional actions to further improve the reliability of these areas
- Potential additional actions could include expanding existing and/or creating new water storage programs, developing new pump stations, and partnering with agencies on exchanges and interconnections
- Staff will report on progress regularly and continue to take actions for this and future droughts, including collaboratively creating a high-level drought action portfolio

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Blois
2. Lefevre
3. Peterson
4. Repenning
5. Hagekhalil
6. Camacho

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

c.      Subject:            Proposed Water Quality Lab Upgrades

         Presented by:      Steven Burkhead, Interim Senior Engineer, Engineering Services  
                                 and  
                                 Paul Rochelle, Section Manager, Water System Operations

Mr. Burkhead and Mr. Rochelle reported on the following:

- WQL was built in 1985 and expanded in 1998, and the building is an essential facility for Metropolitan and member agencies
- Current lab has several deficiencies that need to be addressed to ensure it remains an essential facility including: seismic resiliency issues (retrofit required), space reconfiguration for existing workloads, and potential to add additional space to meet future needs
- Space planning study conducted to determine what will keep WQL relevant for the next 30+ years
- Alternatives Considered: retrofit and expansion of existing building or construction of a new building
- Recommended approach: retrofit existing lab
- Next step: February 2022 Board Action

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. De Jesus
3. Peterson
4. Lefevre

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

d.      Subject:      Annual Seismic Resilience Update

         Presented by:      Winston Chai, Unit Manager, Engineering Services and  
                                         John Shamma, Section Manager, Engineering Services

Mr. Chai and Mr. Shamma reported on the following:

- 5 components of Metropolitan's seismic strategy: planning, engineering, operations agency partnership, and reporting
- Engineering Strategy: assessment, prioritization, mitigation
- Components: dams & reservoirs, above ground facilities, lifelines, and underground structures
- Risk-based prioritization by component
- Effective mitigation: strategies, tools, multi-purpose projects, and latest technologies
- Summary: continue to assess, prioritize, develop, implement, and report

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre

Staff responded to the Director's comments or questions.

e. Subject: Overview of Construction Management  
Presented by: Item deferred to a future meeting.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: Water System Operations Manager's report  
Presented by: No presentation given.

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report  
Presented by: No presentation given.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on February 7, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Tim Smith  
Chair