

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

## **MINUTES**

### **ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**March 7, 2022**

Chair Smith called the teleconference meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Chair Smith, Directors Apodaca, Blois, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Repenning, and Williams

Members absent: None

Other Board members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, Dick, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Kurtz, Miller, Phan, Ramos, Record, and Tamaribuchi.

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

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

1. Ms. Olivas, resident of Brea – In support of Item 7-1
2. Russel Johnson, Associated Builders & Contractors, Southern California Chapter – In support of Item 7-1
3. Lauren McKeenan, Water Projects L.A. Alliance for New Economy – In support of Item 7-1
4. Andrea Laughlin, resident of Los Angeles – In support of Item 7-1
5. Chris Pete, Director of PIPE – In support of Item 7-1
6. Cathy McClaren, Palmdale Water Director – In support of Item 7-1
7. Ian Montey, LADPW Bureau of Contract Administration – In support of Item 7-1
8. Cameron Hurt, resident of Los Angeles / Del Rey – In support of Item 7-1
9. Rob Melton, Policy Director LA County Division of Labor – In support of Item 7-1
10. Chris Hannon, Executive Secretary of LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council – In support of Item 7-1
11. Bruce Resnick, Executive Director of LA Water Keeper – In support of Item 7-1
12. Sam Lewis, Executive Director ARC (Anti Recidivism Coalition) – In support of Item 7-1
13. Gus Torres, UAE Local – In support of Item 7-1
14. Ken Hut, International Unit of Operating Engineers – In support of Item 7-1
15. Gracia Lopez Reyes, resident of Alhambra – In support of Item 7-1
16. Gerard McAllen, Executive Director / Project Manager of SoFi Stadium – In support of Item 7-1
17. Ernesto Medrano, OC/LA County Building and Construction Trades Council – In support of Item 7-1
18. Eric Christen, Executive Director of Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction – In opposition to Item 7-1
19. Mark Hovatter, Chief of Facilities LA Unified School District – In support of Item 7-1
20. Kevin Dayton, Labor Issues Solutions – In opposition to Item 7-1
21. Ann Marie Odie, LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council – In support of Item 7-1
22. Ashley Gonzalez, resident of Los Angeles – In support of Item 7-1

23. Bill Perez, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Building and Construction Trades Council – In support of Item 7-1
24. Richard Marx, Western Electrical Contractors Association – provided comments on Item 7-1
25. Herb Clayman, Local 250 Steamfitters – In support of Item 7-1
26. Paul Moreno, Iron Workers Local 433 – In support of Item 7-1
27. Carol Kent, San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council – In support of Item 7-1
28. Tommy, IBEW Electrical Workers Local Union 11 – In support of Item 7-1
29. Katie Wagner, Sierra Club California – In support of Item 7-1

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS --ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering and Operations Committee held February 7, 2022

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

- 7-1            Subject:            Authorize the General Manager to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement for application on construction contracts with a value of \$5 million or greater within Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by:        Doaa Aboul-Hosn
- Motion:                Authorize the General Manager to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement for application on construction contracts with a value of \$5 million or greater within Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Camacho
2. Blois
3. De Jesus
4. Cordero
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Abdo
7. Dick
8. Lefevre
9. Peterson
10. Erdman
11. Kurtz

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Repenning made a motion, seconded by Director Faessel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 7-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Apodaca, Camacho, De Jesus, Faessel, Repenning, Smith, and Williams

Noes: Directors Blois, Dick, Lefevre, Morris, and Peterson

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

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

7-2 Subject: Authorize two professional services agreements to support radial gates replacement projects: (1) an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer in an amount not to exceed \$890,000; and (2) an agreement with LEE + RO, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$904,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion:

- a. Authorize an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for a not-to-exceed amount of \$890,000 for design to upgrade the Cabazon Radial Gate Facility.
- b. Authorize an agreement with LEE + RO, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$904,000 for design to replace radial gates along the San Diego Canal.

7-3 Subject: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2020 Program Environmental Impact Report and related CEQA actions; and award \$677,898 contract to Jeremy Harris Construction, Inc. to construct erosion control improvements for three sites in the Western San Bernardino County region

Motion:

- a. Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2020 Program EIR and related CEQA actions, and
- b. Award \$677,898 contract to Jeremy Harris Construction, Inc. for Stage 1 Right-of-Way and Infrastructure Protection improvements in Western San Bernardino region of Metropolitan's distribution system.

7-4 Subject: Authorize a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$2,800,000 for preliminary design services in support of erosion control improvements along the Colorado River Aqueduct; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion: Authorize an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,800,000 for preliminary design to improve erosion protection structures along the aqueduct.

No presentations were given, Director Dick made a motion, seconded by Director De Jesus, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Apodaca, Blois, Camacho, DeJesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Repenning, Smith, and Williams

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Not Voting: Director Peterson

Absent: None

The motion for Items 2A, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 1 Not Voting, and 1 absent

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

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS ACTION**

NONE

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

**Item 6b was heard prior to item 6a.**

b. Subject: Proposed Capital Investment Plan Biennial Budget

Presented by: Ricardo Hernandez, Unit Manager, Water System Operations, and James Hong, Principal Engineer, Engineering Services Group

Zoom Online

Messrs. Hernandez and Hong reported on the following:

- Development of Enhanced CIP Risk Framework and inclusion in the CIP development process
- Asset Management refinements and use of Value Engineering to optimize CIP decision-making
- Proposed CIP Biennial Budget (FYs 22/23 and 23/24), and potential early addition of RRWP to the CIP

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Fong-Sakai
3. Smith
4. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- a.           Subject:           Regional Recycled Water Program Update  
Presented by:   Heather Collins, Section Manager, Water System Operations

Ms. Collins reported on the following:

- Demonstration Plant Activities
  - Completion of important milestone: Tertiary MBR (tMBR) Testing
  - Initiating Secondary MBR (sMBR) Testing
  - Independent Science Advisory Panel (ISAP) reviews/discusses tMBR testing results, applauds quality of results and contributions to recycled water use nationwide
  - Regulatory Engagement
  - Grants and Funding
- Program Activities
  - Agency Coordination
  - Public Outreach
  - Environmental Planning Phase Activities
  - Schedule and Next Steps

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.           Subject:           Water System Operations Manager's report  
Presented by:   Brent Yamasaki, Water System Operations, Group Manager

Mr. Yamasaki reported on the following:

- Successful completion of month-long CRA shutdown in February; currently at 7-pump flow transitioning back to 8-pump maximum flow

- Henderson Perchlorate Remediation Update

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report

Presented by: John Bednarski, Engineering Services Group, Chief Engineer and Group Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
  - System is more than 25 years old; staff recommends replacement. Agreements will be brought to the board next month.

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

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Tim Smith  
Chair