



- Board of Directors
Engineering and Operations Committee

5/10/2022 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Award a \$3,143,592 contract to Blois Construction, Inc. for upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder structures; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The Sepulveda Feeder has three underground structures that allow delivery of treated water from the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant to member agencies along the East Valley Feeder and the West Valley Feeder No. 1. These underground structures contain venturi flow meters, valves, sump pumps, and ventilation fans. After more than 50 years of continuous service, electrical equipment in these structures is deteriorating. Further deterioration of the electrical system in these structures may affect the reliability of meter readings and valve operation. The action awards a construction contract to replace deteriorated electrical components and make other upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures.

Details

Background

The Sepulveda Feeder has three underground structures near the intersection of Rinaldi Street and Havenhurst Avenue in the community of Granada Hills. The three structures are the Sepulveda Feeder/East Valley Feeder interconnection structure, which delivers water from the Sepulveda Feeder to the East Valley Feeder; the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1, which delivers water from the Sepulveda Feeder to the West Valley Feeder No. 1; and a third structure, which houses the master meter that measures the flow from the Jensen plant to the Sepulveda Feeder. The structures were constructed between 1962 to 1968 and contain piping, venturi flow meters, valves, sump pumps, ventilation fans, and electrical equipment to monitor and control flows.

Recent inspections showed that after more than 50 years of service, the structures' electrical systems are deteriorating and need to be replaced. The conduits and electrical equipment inside the structures have begun to corrode, which may affect the reliability of meter readings and valve operation. Power from the Sepulveda Feeder/East Valley Feeder interconnection structure is distributed to the other two nearby structures. This project will provide a new electrical service from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to each of the three structures so that a power shutdown at one structure (caused by maintenance or an electrical fault) will not affect operations of the other structures.

In addition to the electrical upgrades, piping modifications are needed at the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1 interconnection structure. The West Valley Feeder No. 1 is an 8.3-mile-long prestressed concrete cylinder pipeline whose diameter varies from 48 inches to 57 inches. A 5.5-mile reach of West Valley Feeder No. 1, extending from the Sepulveda Feeder to the De Soto sectionalizing valve, has been leased to LADWP since 1977; and the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder interconnection structure shutoff valve has been closed during the lease period. To prevent the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1 interconnection structure valve from accidentally being opened and exposing the LADWP delivery system to high-pressure Sepulveda Feeder water, removal of a pipe spool and installation of 30-inch blind flanges is recommended.

The construction of the electrical upgrades and the piping modification will be executed under one construction contract to avoid multiple construction activities at the same structure within a short period. This approach

reduces the coordination effort for traffic control plans and construction permits from the city of Los Angeles. Final design for this work is complete, and staff recommends award of a contract at this time.

In accordance with the April 2020 action on the biennial budget for fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22, the General Manager will authorize staff to proceed with upgrades at the Sepulveda, East Valley, and West Valley Feeder Interconnection structures, pending the Board's award of the construction contract, as described below. Based on the current Capital Investment Plan (CIP) expenditure forecast, funds for the work to be performed pursuant to this action during the current biennium are available within the CIP Appropriation for Fiscal Years 2020/2021 and 2021/22 (Appropriation No. 15517). Funds required for work to be performed pursuant to the subject contract after fiscal year 2021/22 are budgeted within the Capital Investment Plan Appropriation for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24. This project has been reviewed in accordance with Metropolitan's CIP prioritization criteria and was approved by Metropolitan's CIP Evaluation Team to be included in the Distribution System Reliability Program.

Upgrades at Three Sepulveda Feeder Structures – Construction

The scope of the upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder structures includes replacement of existing service panels, control panels, transformers, panelboards, conduits, wiring, lighting, and receptacles; and installation of new grounding systems and electrical and telephone service connections. Work at the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1 interconnection structure includes excavation, removal, and replacement of the structure's roof, replacement of spool pieces with blind flanges, surface restoration, and traffic control. Metropolitan force activities will include Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system integration, equipment start-up and testing, installation of temporary electrical systems, and electrical system shutdowns and switchovers. In addition, Metropolitan will furnish pipe blind flanges for installation by the construction contractor.

A total of \$4.7 million is required for this work. In addition to the contract amount, other allocated funds include: \$225,000 for control system integration and shutdown-related activities by Metropolitan staff as described above; \$400,000 for construction management and inspection; \$237,000 for submittal review and record drawings preparation by Metropolitan staff, including technical support for Metropolitan furnished equipment and installation; \$200,000 for technical support during construction by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, as described below; \$195,000 for permitting, hazardous material compliance monitoring, contract administration, environmental monitoring, and project management; and \$299,408 for the remaining budget.

Attachment 1 provides the allocation of the required funds. The total estimated cost to complete the Sepulveda Feeder upgrades at three structures, including the amount allocated to date and funds allocated for the work described in this action, is approximately \$5.7 million. Approximately \$1 million has been expended on this project to date.

Award of Construction Contract (Blois Construction, Inc.)

Specification No. 1966 for Sepulveda Feeder Electrical Upgrades at Three Structures was advertised for bids on January 27, 2022. As shown in **Attachment 2**, four bids were received and opened on March 10, 2022. The low bid from Blois Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,143,592 complies with the requirements of the specifications. The other bids ranged from \$3,150,313 to \$4,937,969, while the engineer's estimate for this project was \$2,123,120. Staff investigated the difference between the engineer's estimate and the low bid. Key differences are attributed to increased costs for electrical equipment and the greater-than-expected contractor staffing level required to complete construction within the duration of the approved traffic control plan. For this contract, Metropolitan established a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level of at least 25 percent of the bid amount. Blois Construction, Inc. is an SBE firm, and thus achieves 100 percent participation. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**.

This action awards a \$3,143,592 contract to Blois Construction, Inc. for the electrical upgrades at three structures along the Sepulveda Feeder.

As described above, construction management and inspection will be performed by Metropolitan staff. Engineering Services' performance metric target range for construction management and inspection of projects with construction costs greater than \$3 million is 9 to 12 percent. For this project, the performance metric goal for construction management and inspection is approximately 11.9 percent of the total construction cost. The

total cost of construction for this project is \$3,368,592, which includes the amount of the contract (\$3,143,592) and Metropolitan force activities (\$225,000).

Technical Support During Construction (Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.) – No Action Required

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. performed final design under a board-authorized agreement. As the engineer of record, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc., is recommended to provide technical support during construction. Planned activities include responding to requests for information from the contractor, advising staff on technical issues which may arise, as well as assisting with start-up and testing. A new agreement with Kennedy/Jenks is planned to be executed under the General Manager's Administrative Code authority to award contracts of \$250,000 or less. The estimated cost for these services is \$200,000.

For this agreement, Metropolitan established an SBE participation level of 25 percent. Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. has agreed to meet this level of participation. The sole subconsultant planned for this agreement is Terrazas Group.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered issuing a construction contract for the electrical upgrades of the structures and a separate contract for the piping modifications of the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1 interconnection structure, but this would require multiple permits and traffic control plans and would not have been the most efficient way to get this work done. Staff recommends completing the required piping modifications, that were part of a separate CIP project, as part of the Sepulveda Feeder electrical upgrades project. This approach will allow for efficient execution of the overall infrastructure needs at these three structures, in addition to minimizing disruption to the community.

Summary

This action awards a \$3,143,592 construction contract to Blois Construction, Inc. for the Sepulveda, East Valley, and West Valley Feeder Interconnection upgrades. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds; **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids; **Attachment 3** for the listing of Subcontractors for Low Bidder; and **Attachment 4** for the Location Map

Project Milestone

July 2023 – Completion of construction of upgrades at three structures along the Sepulveda Feeder

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter Contracts

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minutes Item 51283, dated August 2018, the Board authorized final design of Stage 3 Improvements for West Valley Feeder No. 1.

By Minutes Item 51351, dated October 2018, the Board authorized design of Sepulveda Feeder/East Valley Feeder Interconnection Electrical Upgrades.

By Minute Item 51963, dated April 14, 2020, the Board appropriated a total of \$500 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed project is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project involves operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, the proposed project includes the replacement and reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have the

same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The proposed project also action includes minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Class 1, Class 2, and Class 4 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15302, and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Award a \$3,143,592 contract to Blois Construction, Inc. for electrical upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of \$4.7 million in capital funds. Approximately \$50,000 will be incurred in the current biennium and has been previously authorized. The remaining funds from this action are accounted for in the next biennial budget and were authorized in April 2022.

Business Analysis: This option will protect Metropolitan's assets, enhance delivery reliability to member agencies, and reduce the risk of costly urgent repairs.

Option #2

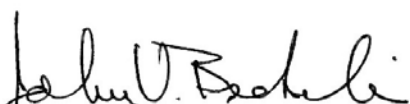

Do not proceed with the project at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: This option would forego an opportunity to enhance operational and delivery reliability and reduce the risk of costly urgent repairs.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

	4/21/2022
John V. Bednarski	Date
Manager/Chief Engineer	
Engineering Services	
	4/25/2022
Adel Hagekhalil	Date
General Manager	

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Subcontractors for Low Bidder

Attachment 4 – Location Map

Ref# es12685186

Allocation of Funds for Sepulveda Feeder Upgrades at Three Structures

	Current Board Action (May 2022)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	\$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	195,000
Support during construction & testing	60,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	177,000
Construction Inspection & Support	400,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	185,000
Materials & Supplies	32,000
Incidental Expenses	8,000
Professional/Technical Services	
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants	200,000
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	
Blois Construction, Inc.	3,143,592
Remaining Budget	299,408
Total	\$ 4,700,000

The total amount expended to date on the electrical upgrades of three structures along the Sepulveda Feeder is approximately \$1,042,000. The total estimated cost to complete this project, including the amount appropriated to date and funds allocated for the work described in this action, is \$5.7 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Abstract of Bids Received on March 10, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

**Specifications No. 1966
Sepulveda Feeder Upgrades at Three Structures**

The work consists of replacing an existing service panel, control panels, transformers, panelboards, conduits, wiring, lighting, receptacles; installing new grounding systems, electrical and telephone service connections at three structures along the Sepulveda Feeder; and replacing 30-inch diameter pipe fittings at the Sepulveda Feeder/West Valley Feeder No. 1 interconnection structure.

Engineer's estimate: \$2,123,120

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE Amount	SBE %	Met SBE¹
Blois Construction, Inc. Oxnard, CA	\$3,143,592	\$3,143,592	100%	Yes
Environmental Construction, Inc. Woodland Hills, CA	\$3,150,313	-	-	-
Reyes Electrical Contractor, Inc. Glendale, CA	\$3,620,000	-	-	-
Mike Bubalo Construction Co., Inc. Baldwin Park, CA	\$4,937,969	-	-	-

¹ SBE (Small Business Enterprise) participation level established at 25 percent for this contract bid.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Subcontractors for Low Bidder****Specifications No. 1966
Sepulveda Feeder Upgrades at Three Structures**

Low bidder: Blois Construction, Inc.

Subcontractor and Location
Zamborelli Enterprises Laguna Beach, CA
National Coatings & Lining Murrietta, CA
Castlerock Environmental Santa Fe Springs, CA
Synergy Traffic Control Walnut, CA
ASC Electrical Irvine, CA

Distribution System

