



● **Board of Directors**

5/10/2022 Board Meeting

7-12

Subject

Approve appointment of Interim General Auditor and associated terms and conditions of employment; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The current General Auditor Gerald Riss has provided notice to the Board of Directors of his intent to retire at the end of May 2022. This action would approve the terms and conditions for appointing the current Assistant General Auditor, Mr. John Tonsick, as the Interim General Auditor effective June 1, 2022, while the Board conducts a recruitment process to fill the position.

Details

Due to Mr. Riss' retirement effective June 1, 2022, Metropolitan will need to conduct a recruitment for the General Auditor position. Typically, recruitments of this caliber may take several months to fill, during which time, the responsibilities and obligations of the General Auditor will need to continue to be maintained in accordance with established policies and procedures. As such, an interim appointment of the current Assistant General Auditor, Mr. John Tonsick, ensures that the office of the General Auditor will effectively continue to operate in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and board directives. Mr. Tonsick has been the Assistant General Auditor for seven years and is well positioned to fulfill these responsibilities until the recruitment for the General Auditor position has been completed. I have negotiated terms and conditions for an employment agreement with Mr. John Tonsick as the Interim General Auditor. I recommend that Mr. Tonsick receive an eight percent increase over his current salary, which equates to an annual salary of \$265,012.80. The eight percent increase is consistent with interim assignments afforded to other regular employees. In addition, Mr. Tonsick will be provided with the right to return to his position as Assistant General Auditor when the new General Auditor is hired. His salary upon his return to a staff position will be reduced to the salary he currently receives. Mr. Tonsick currently receives the same benefits as other unrepresented managers and there would be no change in any of those benefits.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 6401: Method of Appointment and Removal

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) because the proposed action will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment (Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Approve appointment of John Tonsick as Interim General Auditor, and authorize the Chairwoman of the Board to execute an agreement for employment consistent with the terms and conditions outlined above

Fiscal Impact: None because funds are already budgeted

Business Analysis: The retirement of the current General Auditor necessitates appointment of an Interim General Auditor while the Board conducts a process to fill the position.

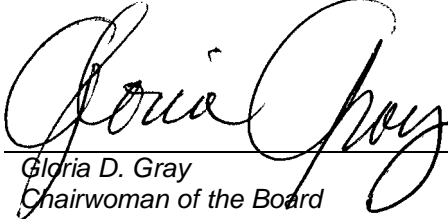
Option #2

Do not approve appointment of John Tonsick as Interim General Auditor and request that the Chairwoman conduct additional negotiations

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Without an interim appointment in place, Metropolitan's office of the General Auditor will not have anyone serving the office during the recruitment process to fill the position.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

Gloria D. Gray
Chairwoman of the Board

5/9/2022
Date