



● **Board of Directors**
Engineering and Operations Committee

12/13/2022 Board Meeting

7-7

Subject

Authorize on-call agreements with GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2.5 million each, for a maximum of five years, to support Metropolitan's Dam Safety Initiatives Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The Dam Safety Initiatives Program (Program) conducts periodic reviews and evaluations of Metropolitan's 24 dams and 20 reservoirs. The Program's assessments typically evaluate potential risks and identify alternative solutions to minimize risks. As a result of this work, both capital and O&M projects are developed to mitigate identified risks. Management of this Program is conducted by in-house staff. In-house staff also conducts technical work for the base load of projects, while professional services agreements are selectively utilized to address projects above this base load or where specialized services are required. This action authorizes three new professional services agreements to provide engineering and technical support of the Program's initiatives. The three new agreements will be the on-call type, which are typically used for shorter-term assignments, urgent projects, and projects with specialized technical needs. The maximum duration of these agreements will be five years.

Details

Background

Metropolitan owns and operates 20 reservoirs and 24 dams that store or manage water throughout Southern California. The dams are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and are regularly inspected by Metropolitan staff and the DSOD to ensure they continue to operate safely. Metropolitan's dam safety Program includes periodic assessments of the performance of the dams to identify any necessary improvements to maintain dam safety. As a result of these assessments, both capital and O&M projects have been identified.

The vast majority of the regulatory monitoring is conducted by in-house staff. However, when resource needs exceed available in-house staffing or require specialized technical expertise, Metropolitan uses a combination of project-specific and on-call professional services agreements. Over the next several fiscal years, a number of dam safety initiatives will require engineering and technical services beyond the level that can be supported by in-house staff. Supplemental support services will be needed in the areas of: (1) dam monitoring system evaluation and design; (2) dam safety risk assessments and improvements; (3) seismic and other structural upgrades; and (4) preparation of emergency action plans.

In order to be considered for a consulting agreement, firms are competitively evaluated, resulting in a list from which both project-specific and on-call agreements are executed as capital project needs are identified. Project-specific agreements over \$250,000 are approved individually by the Board. By contrast, on-call agreements are multi-year with not-to-exceed amounts and provide a high degree of flexibility to respond to schedule or scope adjustments, allow quicker delivery times, and lower administrative costs for both Metropolitan and the consultants. For these types of agreements, consultants are assigned work only after specific tasks are identified by staff, up to the not-to-exceed amounts of the contracts. These agreements have been relied upon for

over 15 years for the efficient execution of capital projects. There are no on-call agreements to provide specialized services for the Program at this time.

In support of Metropolitan's goal of increasing business opportunities for Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms, staff establishes SBE participation levels for the vast majority of professional services agreements for capital projects. The only exceptions are for highly specialized areas of expertise, or for the uncommon occasions when sub-consulting opportunities are limited

Agreements for Engineering Services – GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 1316 was issued in April 2022 to establish a pool of qualified consulting firms to support projects related to geotechnical and dam safety engineering services. The RFQ covered services in two categories: geotechnical engineering services and dam safety assessments. The consultants submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) for one or both of these two categories. Twelve firms submitted SOQs, which were then evaluated based on qualifications, key personnel, experience related to planned projects, past performance, environmental sensitivity, and business outreach. All of the 12 firms were prequalified for geotechnical services, and five were prequalified for dam safety services. Prequalified firms will be eligible to submit proposals on project-specific agreements within the categories of work for which they were prequalified.

Planned engineering and technical services to be provided under the resulting agreements were identified in the RFQ and include conceptual assessments, preliminary and final design support for new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities; field investigations; planning studies; specialized technical analyses and reviews; cost estimating; and engineering support during bid, advertisement, and construction.

New on-call agreements for dam safety engineering and technical services are recommended to be awarded at this time to three of the five firms prequalified for dam safety services. These firms were selected based on staff's current assessment of technical resources needed for dam safety projects over the next several fiscal years. New agreements are recommended with GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. These firms received the highest evaluation scores based on the criteria described above.

This action authorizes on-call agreements with GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc., each in an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million per agreement. The maximum duration of each agreement will be five years. Staff will return to the Board in the future to authorize additional agreements if a need for such work is identified.

Funding for the work to be assigned to the consultants under on-call agreements is available within Metropolitan's capital expenditure plan or O&M budget. No work is guaranteed to the consultants under these agreements. For each of the agreements, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 25 percent of the amount of the agreement. All prequalified firms have committed to meet this level of participation.

Alternatives Considered

Alternatives considered for addressing dam safety initiatives included assessing the availability and capability of in-house Metropolitan staff to conduct this work. Metropolitan's staffing strategy for utilizing consultants and in house Metropolitan staff has been: (1) to assess current work assignments for in-house staff to determine the potential availability of staff to conduct this work; and (2) to utilize consultants when resource needs exceed available in-house staffing or require specialized technical expertise.

This strategy relies on the assumption that in-house engineering staff will handle the baseload of work on capital projects, while professional services agreements are selectively utilized to handle projects above this baseload or where specialized needs are required. Execution of the currently planned projects requires the support of external specialized engineering and dam safety expertise, in addition to Metropolitan staff. External support is needed for evaluation and design of dam monitoring systems, performing detailed structural and geotechnical seismic analysis of dams and other appurtenant structures, assisting Metropolitan in risk evaluations of dams, and supporting Metropolitan staff in necessary updates to the dam emergency action plans.

Summary

This action authorizes on-call agreements of five-year durations with GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million each for support of projects related to Metropolitan's dam safety initiatives.

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 Minute Item 52778, dated April 12, 2022, the Board appropriated a total of \$600 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed actions are not defined as a project under CEQA because they involve continuing administrative activities (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed actions are not subject to CEQA because they involve other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State of CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Authorize on-call agreements with GEI Consultants Inc., HDR, Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc., in amounts not to exceed \$2.5 million each, for a maximum of five years, to support Metropolitan's Dam Safety Initiatives Program.

Fiscal Impact: None; funding for the work to be assigned to the consultants under on-call agreements and performed this biennium is already authorized in the biennium budget. Future costs will be accounted for and appropriated under subsequent biennial budgets. In addition, no work is guaranteed to the consultants under these agreements.

Business Analysis: Contracting with multiple firms provides flexibility and an efficient means for Metropolitan to obtain needed technical services and to complete projects in accordance with board-adopted schedules.

Option #2

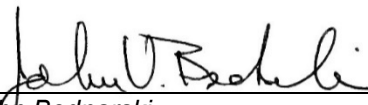
Do not authorize the consulting agreements at this time.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Under this option, Metropolitan staff would perform the engineering activities, or would request board authorization for agreements on a project-specific basis. This option would forego an opportunity to reduce administrative costs or address urgent projects promptly.


Staff Recommendation

Option #1



John Bednarski
Manager/Chief Engineer
Engineering Services Group

11/23/2022
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

12/6/2022
Date

Ref# es12683514