THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Action

- **Board of Directors**
  Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

9/9/2025 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Authorize an agreement with Carasoft Technology Corp. in an amount not to exceed $920,000 for the Network Visibility and Situational Awareness Upgrades to enhance Metropolitan's network monitoring capabilities through the implementation of advanced technology. the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

This action authorizes an agreement for the purchase of Traffic Access Points under the Network Visibility & Situational Awareness Upgrades project. This project will provide the ability to monitor and view raw network packet data in specific locations of Metropolitan's network, including Metropolitan cloud data centers. This project will alleviate the risk of a cyber-attack and secure Metropolitan's network and computer assets. This new project builds on the efforts of previous cybersecurity projects, such as the Security Operations Center/Metropolitan Cybersecurity Upgrade Phase 1 and Phase 2. As such, periodic investments in cybersecurity are prudent and necessary to help minimize the risk of cybersecurity breaches. Metropolitan shall continue to enhance cyber resiliency, infrastructure reliability, as well as its capability to monitor, detect, and respond to ever-emerging cyber threats.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Authorize an agreement with Carasoft Technology Corp. in an amount not to exceed $920,000 for the Network Visibility and Situational Awareness Upgrades to enhance Metropolitan's network monitoring capabilities through the implementation of advanced technology.

Fiscal Impact: $1,336,720 in capital expenditures for FY 2025/26
Business Analysis: Enhance resilience and improve the capabilities of monitoring, detecting, and stopping any intrusion into our network, and remain compliant with industry standards.

Option #2

Do not implement the Network Visibility and Situational Awareness project
Fiscal Impact: $0
Business Analysis: Increased risk and exposure to ever-evolving cyber threats.

Alternatives Considered

None

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 5108: Appropriations

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

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

None

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because there is no potential for the activity in question to have a significant effect on the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

The Network Visibility and Situational Awareness Upgrade project will enhance the organization's network monitoring capabilities through the implementation of advanced technologies such as Traffic Access Points (TAP), Extended Detection and Response (XDR), and Network Detection and Response (NDR). TAPs are deployed strategically within the network infrastructure to capture and analyze network traffic, providing comprehensive visibility into data flows and network behavior. XDR platforms are leveraged to collect and correlate data from multiple security tools, enabling holistic threat detection and response across various endpoints. NDR solutions use advanced analytics and machine learning algorithms to identify and mitigate network threats, including anomalous activities and potential breaches. Implementation of TAPs is required to enable the use of NDR and XDR technologies. By implementing these technologies, the project aims to improve network visibility, enhance situational awareness, and strengthen the organization's ability to detect and respond to emerging cyber threats effectively.

Metropolitan's proposed contract with Carahsoft will contain Metropolitan-required standard terms, a California Participation Addendum with amendments, and terms that otherwise largely mirror those of the Utah contract. Furthermore, the contract between Utah and Carahsoft was competitively awarded through a request for proposal process (Solicitation CH16012). The General Counsel's office, therefore, concludes that the requirements of section 8140(1)(l) are met.

This action would authorize Metropolitan to enter into an agreement with Carahsoft Technology Corp. (Carahsoft) for the implementation of TAP under the Network Visibility and Situational Awareness Upgrades project. The budget allocated for TAP is $1,336,720 includes funds of $920,000 for the Carahsoft contract for network materials and switches and professional services, $305,000 for labor, and $111,720 in contingency. In 2016, the State of Utah signed a contract with Carahsoft to provide the required hardware and software. Metropolitan utilized the Utah contract to obtain terms with Carahsoft for the required network equipment hardware and implementation services.

This project has been evaluated and recommended by Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan Evaluation Team, and funds are available within the fiscal year 2024/25 capital expenditure plan. See **Attachment 1** for the Financial Statement

Project Milestone(s)

Complete Design – Sep 2025

Procure Materials – Dec 2025

Configure/Deploy – Jan – May 2026

Complete Project – June 2026

9/2/2025

Charles Eckstrom *Date*
Group Manager, Information Technology

9/2/2025

Deven Upadhyay *Date*
General Manager

Attachment 1 – Financial Statement

Ref# it12707156

Allocated Funds for Network Visibility & Situational Awareness Upgrades

	Current Board Action (Sept. 2025)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	$ -
Final Design	-
Owner Costs (Program mgmt.)	305,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs	-
Construction Inspection & Support	-
Metropolitan Force Construction	-
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	-
Professional/Technical Services	920,000
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	-
Remaining Budget	111,720
Total	**$ 1,336,720**