THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Action

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

10/13/2026 Board Meeting

8-2

Subject

Award a $14,475,037 contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace the canal concrete liner at 25 locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The concrete lining panels at several locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) canal have cracked and buckled over time. Seepage through the cracks may erode the soil behind the concrete, potentially damaging the earthen embankments and undermining the structural integrity of the panels. Replacement of the lining panels is needed to maintain the reliability of the CRA.

This action awards a $14,475,037 construction contract to replace the canal concrete liner at 25 locations over a nearly 40-mile reach of the canal. See **Attachment 1** for the Allocation of Funds, **Attachment 2** for the Abstract of Bids, **Attachment 3** for the Subcontractors for Low Bidder, and **Attachment 4** for the Location Map.

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Award a $14,475,037 contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace the canal concrete liner at 25 locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Fiscal Impact: Expenditure of $17.6 million in capital funds. All costs will be incurred in the current biennium and have been previously authorized.
Business Analysis: This option will increase the operational reliability of the CRA and reduce the risk of uncontrolled releases and unplanned outages.

Option #2

Do not proceed with the project at this time.
Fiscal Impact: None
Business Analysis: This option may lead to more extensive and costly repairs, and to additional CRA shutdowns.

Alternatives Considered

An alternative to awarding this construction contract is to have Metropolitan forces complete the construction of the subject project. Although Metropolitan forces have completed this type of work before, this alternative is not recommended because the work must be conducted during the annual CRA shutdown. During the CRA shutdown, Metropolitan forces focus on maintenance work that can only be performed during the shutdown. The selected option will utilize a contractor to perform the canal lining work to allow Metropolitan staff to focus on maintenance activities planned for the annual CRA shutdown.

Applicable 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

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

By Minute Item 54446, dated April 14, 2026, the Board appropriated a total of $1.025 billion for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA because it involves the operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Furthermore, the proposed action consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. (State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15302.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

The CRA is a 242-mile-long conveyance system that transports water from the Colorado River to Lake Mathews. It consists of five pumping plants; 124 miles of tunnels, siphons, and reservoirs; 63 miles of canals; and 55 miles of conduits. The aqueduct was constructed in the late 1930s and was placed into service in 1941.

The CRA's open canals are trapezoidal concrete-lined structures with sloping sidewalls that are supported by earthen embankments. Most reaches of the CRA canals are 20 feet wide at the invert and 55 feet wide at the top, with a height of 11.75 feet, and lined with 8-inch-thick concrete.

The CRA is routinely shut down and inspected for signs of deterioration and to perform needed rehabilitation. Occasionally, portions of the concrete panels along the aqueduct are found to be cracked. Replacement of those panels is typically planned for the following shutdown season.

In recent years, rehabilitation work of this type has been performed in localized areas along the canal. Occasionally, more rehabilitation is required. In both 2002 and 2018, Metropolitan rehabilitated approximately 80,000 square feet of the canal liner and made other improvements along a length of over 100 miles of the conveyance system.

During the 2025 and 2026 annual CRA shutdowns, inspections performed by Metropolitan staff revealed cracking and buckling at several locations between mile markers 25 and 62 along the canal. The concrete lining needs to be replaced at 25 locations, totaling approximately 90,000 square feet, along an approximately 40-mile reach of the canal. The concrete damage is likely caused by extreme temperature variations on the exposed surface, as well as subsidence and heaving of the concrete over time. Replacement of the deteriorated liner is needed to maintain reliability of the CRA system.

Final design for the CRA Canal Liner Rehabilitation project is complete, and staff recommends awarding a construction contract at this time.

Colorado River Aqueduct Canal Liner Rehabilitation – Construction

The scope of the construction contract includes demolition of the existing canal liner, grading and recompacting the subgrade, installation of steel reinforcement, concrete liner placement, and restoration of staging areas to pre-construction condition. Metropolitan force activities will include: (1) shutdown and rewatering of the CRA system; (2) dewatering portions of the canal; and (3) providing contractor access. All work will be performed during the planned February 2027 CRA shutdown.

A total of $17.6 million is allocated for this work. In addition to the construction contract described below, allocated funds for professional services include $130,000 for Project Labor Agreement administration and $158,000 for environmental monitoring under existing board-authorized on-call agreements. Allocated funds for Metropolitan staff include $100,000 for Metropolitan force activities described above; $1,650,000 for construction management and inspections; $175,000 for submittal review, response to requests for information, technical support during construction, and preparation of record drawings; $187,000 for contract administration, environmental support, project management, and project controls; and $724,963 for remaining budget. **Attachment 1** provides the allocation of the required funds.

Award of Construction Contract (Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.)

Specifications No. 2191 for the Colorado River Aqueduct Canal Rehabilitation was advertised for bids on July 21, 2026. As shown in **Attachment 2**, four bids were received and opened on September 9, 2026. The low bid from Kiewit Infrastructure West Co., in the amount of $14,475,037, complies with the requirements of the specifications. The other bids ranged from $18.4 million to $21.4 million, while the engineer's estimate for this project was $19 million. For this contract, Metropolitan established a Small Business Enterprise participation level of at least 10 percent of the bid amount. Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. has agreed to meet this level of participation. The subcontractors for this contract are listed in **Attachment 3**. This contract will be conducted under the terms of Metropolitan's PLA.

This action awards a $14,475,037 contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace the concrete liner at 25 locations along a 40-mile reach of the CRA canal. As described above, Metropolitan staff will perform construction management and inspection. 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 anticipated inspection cost is approximately 11.3 percent of the total construction cost. The total cost of construction for this project is $14,575,037 which includes the contract amount ($14,475,037) and Metropolitan force activities ($100,000).

Project Milestone

April 2027 – Completion of construction

Mai M Hattar 9/28/2026
Mai M. Hattar *Date*
Chief Engineer
Engineering Services

Shivaji Deshmukh 9/28/2026
Shivaji Deshmukh *Date*
General Manager

Attachment 1 – Allocation of Funds

Attachment 2 – Abstract of Bids

Attachment 3 – Subcontractors

Attachment 4 – Location Map

Ref# es12715449

Allocation of Funds for Colorado River Aqueduct Canal Liner Rehabilitation

	Current Board Action (Oct. 2026)
Labor	
Studies & Investigations	$ -
Final Design	
Owner Costs (Program mgmt., envir. monitoring)	187,000
Submittals Review & Record Drwgs.	175,000
Construction Inspection & Support	1,650,000
Metropolitan Force Construction	100,000
Materials & Supplies	-
Incidental Expenses	-
Professional/Technical Services	
PLA Admin. Consultant	130,000
Environmental Monitoring Consultant	158,000
Right-of-Way	-
Equipment Use	-
Contracts	
Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.	14,475,037
Remaining Budget	724,963
Total	**$ 17,600,000**

The total amount expended to date is approximately $910,000. The total estimated cost to rehabilitate the CRA canal liner, including the amount appropriated to date, and funds allocated for the work described in this action is $18.5 million.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Abstract of Bids Received on September 9, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Specifications No. 2191
Colorado River Aqueduct Canal Liner Rehabilitation

The work consists of replacing segments of the Colorado River Aqueduct Canal liner, including over-excavating and re-compacting the subgrade, removing and replacing approximately 90,000 square feet of concrete liner, and site restoration.

Engineer's estimate: $19 million

Bidder and Location	Total	SBE $	SBE %	Met SBE[1]
Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. Santa Fe Springs, CA	**$14,475,037**	**$1,484,600**	**10%**	**Yes**
J.F. Shea Construction Inc. Walnut, CA	$18,414,760	-	-	-
Granite Construction Company Indio, CA	$21,189,500	-	-	-
Bosco Constructors Inc. Chatsworth, CA	$21,444,000	-	-	-

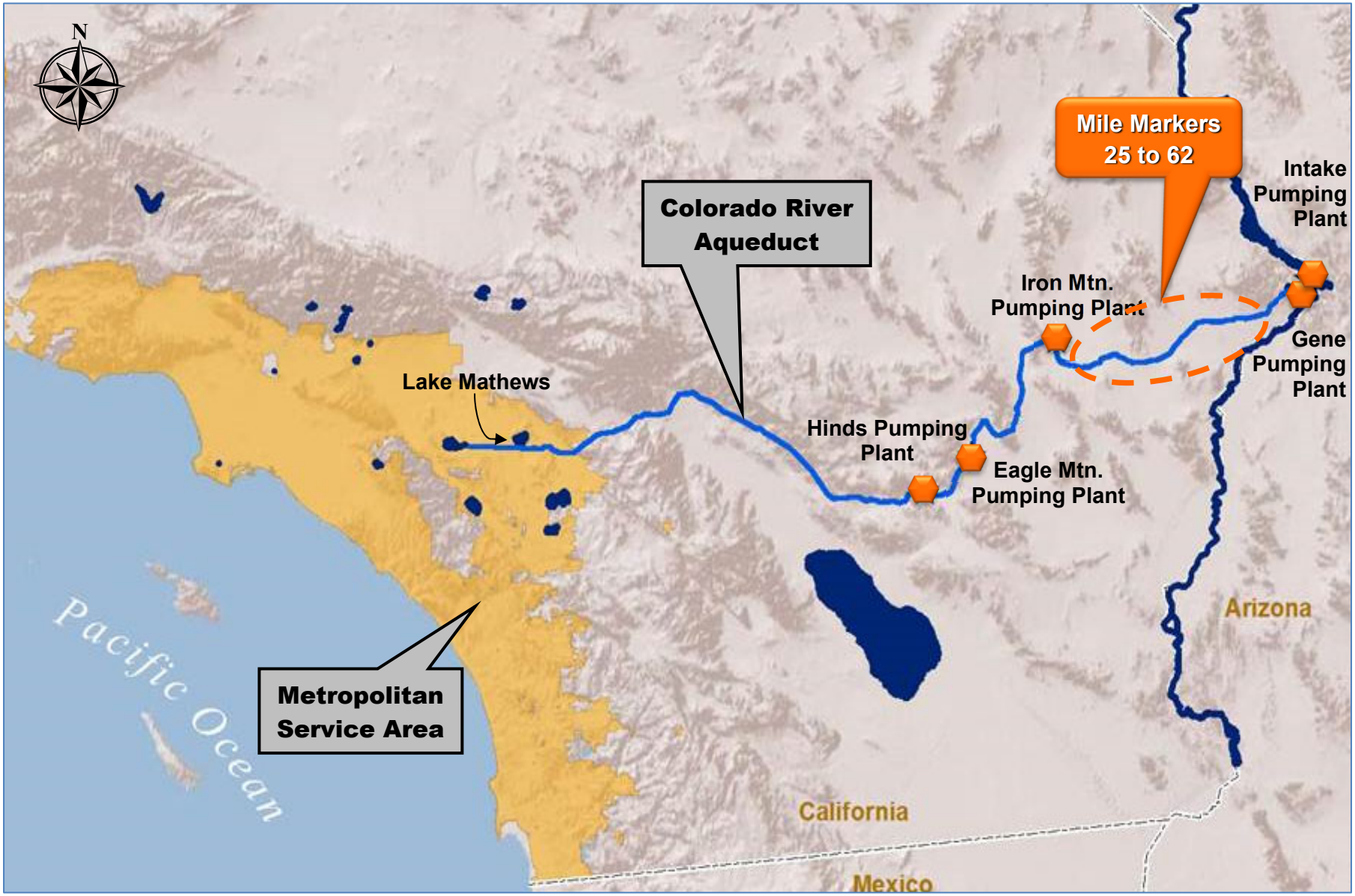
[1] Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation level established at 10 percent for this contract.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Subcontractors for Low Bidder

Specifications No. 2191
Colorado River Aqueduct Canal Liner Rehabilitation

Low bidder: Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.

Subcontractor	Service Category; Specialty
Anbesaw Consulting dba The Quality Firm Signal Hill, CA	QA/QC
Red Hawk Services Inc. Perris, CA	Fencing
Universal Consulting Corporation Las Vegas, NV	Sawcutting
BT Trucking Inc. Bakersfield, CA	Trucking
Adkison Engineers dba Adkan Engineering Riverside, CA	Survey

Location Map