

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**July 12, 2021**

Chair Smith called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members present: Chair Smith, Directors Blois, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Murray, Peterson (entered after roll call), and Williams.

Members absent: Directors Apodaca and Repenning.

Other Board members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Butkiewicz, Cordero, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Hawkins, Jung, Kurtz, Record, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Hagekhalil, Okano, Scully, Upadhyay, and Yamasaki.

Chairwoman Gray welcomed Adel Hagekhalil, to his first official board committee meeting, as our new general manager.

#### **1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Engineering and Operations Committee held June 7, 2021.

#### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- 7-3      Subject:      Authorize four actions for the Desert region communication system including: (1) an agreement with Nokia of America Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$5,297,000 for equipment procurement and design support to upgrade the wide area network; (2) an amendment to an agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers, LLC for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$730,000 to provide specialized technical support for the upgrade; (3) an amendment to the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to include additional communication system improvements at the Colorado River Aqueduct's Gene

Pumping Plant; and (4) an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$275,000 with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design services related to the construction of a communication line; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Brian Brenhaug, Information Services Team Manager  
Aida Garabetian, Engineering Services Team Manager

Motion:

- a. Authorize an agreement with Nokia of America Inc for a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,297,000 for furnishing wide area network equipment and design support to upgrade the Desert region wide area network;
- b. Authorize increase of \$250,000 to the agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers, LLC for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$730,000 for specialized technical support for the upgrade;
- c. Amend current CIP to include upgrades to the communication system at Gene Pumping Plant; and
- d. Authorize an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$275,000 for design services.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Lefevre
3. Smith
4. Peterson
5. Camacho

Director Murray made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-3:

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Blois, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Faessel, Lefevre, Morris, Murray, Peterson, Smith and Williams

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Apodaca, and Repenning.

The motion for Items 2A and 7-3, passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a.           Subject:           Power Operations and Planning update  
Presented by:   Jon Jontry, Water System Operations Interim Section Manager

Mr. Jontry reported on the following:

- Overview of Metropolitan's Energy Requirements
- CRA Transmission System
- Optimizing Power Management to Minimize Costs
- Summer 2021 Operating Conditions
- Planning for the Future

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Butkiewicz
2. Faessel

- b.           Subject:           Apprenticeship Program Update  
Presented by:   Melissa Wassenaar, Water System Operations Training Administrator

Ms. Wassenaar reported on the following:

- Program Background and Structure
- Pandemic Virtual Classroom and Practical Lab Training
- Recruitment Process
- Apprentice Success Rates and Innovation

- Relocation of Training Center
- Upcoming Program Improvements

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Butkiewicz
3. Dick
4. Murray
5. Blois

- c.           Subject:           Innovative approaches to seismic resilience for Metropolitan's pipelines and tunnels  
Presented by:   Ezequiel Montanez, Engineering Services Senior Engineer

Mr. Montanez reported on the following:

- Background Information on Seismic Hazard
- Seismic Risk Mitigation Approach
- Examples of Metropolitan's Strategies to mitigate Seismic Risk (Regional Recycled Water Program, Casa Loma Siphon #1, and Whitewater Tunnel #2)
- Next Steps

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

None

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.           Subject:           Water System Operations Manager's report  
Presented by:   Brent Yamasaki, Water System Operations Group Manager

Mr. Yamasaki reported on the following:

- Current operational conditions.
- June National Safety Month Events
- Drought Operational Challenges
- Sepideh Shirkhani and Sergio Escalante were recipients of the AWWA Source Magazine Editorial Award

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

None

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report

Presented by: John Bednarski, Engineering Services Chief Engineer and Group Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- The 2021 Member Agency Engineering Managers Forum was conducted on June 24<sup>th</sup> by the Engineering Services group
- The Advanced Purification Center in Carson was the recipient of ASCE Region 9 Award for Water and Wastewater Project of the Year

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1. Abdo

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on August 16, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Tim Smith  
Chair