



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

8-15

October 6, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee--Action)
From: General Manager
Subject: Ratification of an Urgent-Necessity Contract with Kiewit Pacific Company for Vegetation Clearing at the Domenigoni Valley Reservoir

Report

In September 1991, your Board authorized an increase in Appropriation No. 560, to a total of \$295,000,000, to finance all costs for planning, land acquisition and design, and all costs in advance of award of contracts for the Domenigoni Valley Reservoir (formerly Eastside Reservoir) Project.

Over the past several months, hillside vegetation at the Domenigoni Valley has been cleared to facilitate investigation of archaeological sites and for general clearing of vegetation below the reservoir's high water line. In archeological areas, clearing has been conducted using goats and hand labor to minimize ground disturbance. Heavy equipment is being used in other areas of the reservoir to expedite the clearing process. Clearing began in mid-August to avoid impacts to birds during their annual nesting season and must be completed by late November to meet scheduling and other needs of the project. The vegetation is being removed in a manner to minimize subsurface disturbance to the soil.

Clearing is being done to minimize the risk of a fire starting on the hillside areas and threatening portions of the proposed Multi-Species Reserve surrounding the reservoir. This Reserve provides mitigation for the listing of any current and future endangered species within the project area and must be managed to provide a high level of protection. Lands are also being cleared to facilitate investigation of rock quarry areas on the hillside slopes. Quarry investigations are expected to begin in December.

The time frame for federal listing of the California gnatcatcher as an endangered species currently extends through March 1993, although a listing could occur at any time prior to that date. While an early listing could result in indeterminable delays to the project, land clearing required to meet the above project needs also reduces risk of a delay should such a listing occur.

Because of the urgency of this work, the time necessary to prepare specifications and proceed with the normal competitive bidding procedures would cause further delays. In addition, it is unlikely that competitive bidding procedures would produce an advantage for Metropolitan. Kiewit Pacific Company has satisfactorily completed other work for Metropolitan, is qualified to do the work, and was able to mobilize and provide the necessary services within the required time frame.

Under Section 8115(b) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code, subject to ratification by a two-thirds vote of your Board, the General Manager may execute a contract in an amount exceeding \$250,000 for work deemed to be of urgent necessity. It is therefore proposed that your Board ratify, by a two-thirds vote, execution of an urgent-necessity contract with Kiewit Pacific Company for the removal of vegetation in the Domenigoni Valley.

It is estimated that the total cost of the work to be performed by Kiewit Pacific Company will not exceed \$750,000. Actual payment will be based on the contractor's time and materials. Funds are available under Capital Appropriation No. 560.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, your Board certified an Environmental Impact Report for the Domenigoni Valley Reservoir Project in October 1991. No further environmental documentation is required for your Board to act on this matter.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred to the Engineering and Operations Committee for action because of its jurisdiction over the initiation, scheduling, and performance of construction programs, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2431(b).

Recommendation

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FOR ACTION.

It is recommended that your Board ratify, by a two-thirds vote, the urgent-necessity contract made with Kiewit Pacific Company, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, for vegetation clearing at Domenigoni Valley Reservoir, in accordance with Section 8115(b) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code, and authorize the General Manager to pay the contractor upon receipt of detailed invoices.


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