**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 17, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee--Action)
From: General Manager
Subject: Purchase of Communications Equipment for the Two Cal-Plaza Building

Report

As a result of the Board authorizing the General Manager to centralize Headquarters staff in leased office space in downtown Los Angeles, additional telephone switching equipment is required. Equipment currently in inventory (configured for the WCT Building) must be expanded to accommodate the increased number of employees that will be located in the Two Cal-Plaza Building.

The total estimated cost of this expansion will not exceed \$340,000 (see Attachment A). Funds are available under the 1992-93 budget and the annualized cost of the equipment fits within the guideline established by the Board of Directors.

Staff has explored available options, finding that the most cost-effective solution at this time is to expand the previously purchased Rolm equipment. Other considerations include the need for compatibility with switching equipment installed throughout the District and consistency of services and procedures for a large number of employees. Therefore, staff recommends award of contract to Rolm Corporation under provisions set forth in Administrative Code Sections 8103(d) and (e). A declaration is included as Attachment B.

The Rolm Corporation is an equal opportunity employer, and a copy of its current Affirmative Action Plan is on file with the District. The proposed project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Board Committee Assignment

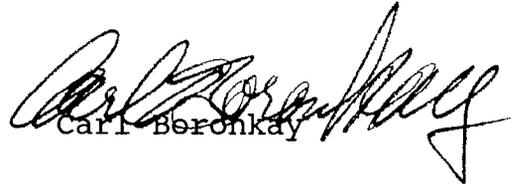
This letter is referred for action to:

The Engineering and Operations Committee because of its responsibility to study, advise, and make recommendations with regard to plans, specifications, and bids, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2431(a).

Recommendation

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FOR ACTION.

It is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to enter into a contract with the Rolm Corporation at an estimated cost of \$340,000, plus applicable taxes, to provide additional telephone switching equipment, all in accordance with this letter and in form approved by the General Counsel.


Carl Beronkay

RRN:WPC:sm
Attachment

ATTACHMENT "A"

Breakdown of Estimated Costs for Additional
Communications Telephone Switching Equipment
for the Two Cal-Plaza Building

Voice Communications:

Two additional switching cabinets	\$319,000
Additional Voice-Messaging	21,000
Total Voice Communication	\$340,000

NOTE: Estimates are based upon information supplied by the District's Telecommunications group, and upon information provided them by ROLM.

ATTACHMENT "B"

JUSTIFICATION FOR SINGLE-SOURCE BID
ROLM PRODUCT LINE

- I. NETWORK COMPATIBILITY -- The telephone network is a carefully integrated mix of proprietary hardware and software. This new hardware for the Two Cal-Plaza location must be purchased from the Rolm Corporation to be compatible with that which was previously purchased to service the WCT facility and later transferred to Two Cal-Plaza. No other vendor uses the same dialing plan, and introducing a new technology into the system would seriously compromise the integrity of the network and would waste the investment in equipment already purchased.
- II. EASE OF OPERATION -- Functionality of the system must be addressed in two areas--the end-users perspective and ease of maintenance. The end-user should be able to travel to any District facility and be able to make and receive telephone calls and PhoneMail messages without system training. Software and hardware maintenance personnel have years of experience on the Rolm System, and are certified to perform repairs and Adds, Moves and Changes. Having a non-Rolm PBX would require either retraining or outside maintenance contracts.
- III. INVENTORY -- The District maintains an inventory of Rolm switch hardware and peripheral equipment used for capital projects, Adds, Moves and Changes, and repairs. An inventory would also have to be established and maintained for another switch product.
- IV. PHONEMAIL COMPATIBILITY -- The PhoneMail network is an integral part of the communications network at the District. It uses hardwired channels terminating in the CBX to switch calls between the two systems, allowing transparent call transfers into and out of PhoneMail. It relies on software in the CBX to route calls over the telephone network. Rolm guarantees total PhoneMail compatibility only when installed on a Rolm telephone system.
- V. DIRECT-INWARD-DIAL (DID) CAPABILITY -- Because the Commerce extensions today are actually part of the LAHQ CBX, we are able to provide DID numbers. Once the system is replaced with an intelligent switch, the ability to access dial tone from the 9751 is restricted. Replacing the Walker System with a Rolm product allows us to use the off-system forwarding feature to simulate DID capability.

- VI. INSTALLATION -- If the Single Source request is denied, other vendors would be solicited for bids. This is a lengthy process, requiring detailed RFP generation, time for vendor response, a (typically slow) review period and protracted contract award phase. The installation itself entails survey and design, user training, and physical installation phases.
- VII. CORPORATE STRATEGY -- The implication of moving away from a single source vendor is considerable. It is far more difficult and expensive to maintain a coherent, integrated network with dissimilar products. Choosing to add new telephone switches, or replace existing systems, with products from another vendor represents a major shift in the direction of our corporate telecommunications strategy.

for Jim Brainerd

Director, Information Systems
Date: 11-20-92