

- **Board of Directors**
Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee
Legal, Claims and Personnel Committee

March 13, 2001 Board Meeting

8-7

Subject

Authorize entering into agreements with GeoPentech to perform feasibility investigations of the Chuckwalla Groundwater Basin, and Kennedy Jenks/Todd to perform additional aquifer tests in the Hayfield Groundwater Basin

Description

In June 2000, the Board authorized funding of \$2.5 million for feasibility studies in the Upper Chuckwalla Basin and additional aquifer testing in the Hayfield Groundwater Basin, Appropriation No. 15325. These feasibility studies are scheduled to continue from the current fiscal year into year 2004. The Hayfield/Chuckwalla project, along with the other Colorado River conservation, storage, and transfer projects, will assist Metropolitan in meeting the objectives of the October 15, 1999 *Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD* and the May 11, 2000 draft document, *California's Colorado River Water Use Plan* issued by the Colorado River Board of California. This work will enhance Metropolitan's options to keep the Colorado River Aqueduct full in accordance with the State's Colorado River Water Use Plan. The project may also be eligible for State General Funds under California Water Code, Section 12560, et seq. and Proposition 13 (year 2000).

The Upper Chuckwalla Groundwater Basin is located along the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) adjacent to Metropolitan's Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant approximately 15 miles north of Desert Center in Riverside County. The Hayfield Groundwater Basin is located adjacent to the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant near Chiriaco Summit. Additional testing is needed to develop design criteria for an extraction wellfield.

GeoPentech and Kennedy Jenks/Todd were selected through a process following Metropolitan's standard procedures for procurement of outside consultant services. GeoPentech and Kennedy Jenks/Todd will be providing specialized services that are not performed by Metropolitan staff. These services include geophysical surveys, water well monitoring, water quality investigations, and aquifer testing.

RFP Process

Metropolitan initiated the consultant selection process by issuing RFP 455. Twenty-four potential respondents attended the mandatory pre-proposal conference held at Metropolitan's offices on August 8, 2000. Seven formal proposal responses were submitted on September 14, 2000, and four consultant teams were selected for interviews for both scopes of work.

Metropolitan's selection panel included staff from Corporate Resources and Water Resource Management Groups. Metropolitan staff were assisted in the review of these proposals by independent consultant, Mr. Glenn Brown, an expert in groundwater hydrology currently serving on Metropolitan's Groundwater Technical Review Panel. Following formal interviews conducted on October 20, 2000, GeoPentech and Kennedy Jenks/Todd were evaluated as the first and second rated respondents.

Both GeoPentech and Kennedy Jenks/Todd are financially stable and meet Metropolitan's criteria for experience, technical expertise, approach and methodology for completing these studies and investigations. The contract amounts are within the previously authorized budgets for these studies and investigations. The Board appropriated the necessary budget for these investigations at its regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 13, 2000.

Currently, there are some land use proposals in the vicinity of the Chuckwalla Valley study area that may impact the storage program. It is proposed that the General Manager would not expend any appropriated funds with GeoPentech for the Chuckwalla Valley feasibility study until these issues are resolved. Staff will keep the Board apprised of the progress of the project.

Policy

Existing: Pursuant to Section 8115(a) of the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code, no expenditure shall be made unless appropriation has been approved by the Board for the purpose intended.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Determine that executing an agreement with GeoPentech does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(a); and

Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with GeoPentech when appropriate, in an amount not to exceed \$1,850,000 for consulting services for a feasibility investigation of a groundwater storage program in the Upper Chuckwalla Valley; authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Kennedy Jenks/Todd in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for consulting services for additional aquifer testing of the Hayfield Groundwater Basin.

Fiscal Impact: \$2,350,000 for Fiscal Years 2001-2005. Funds for the Hayfield and Chuckwalla Projects are from the CIP, existing appropriation 15325, Project Numbers 102986 and 103099, respectively.

Option #2

Defer award of these consultant contracts.

Fiscal Impact: None for fiscal year 2001.

Option #3

Do not award.

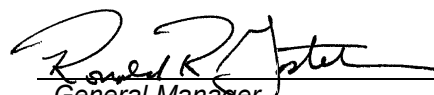
Fiscal Impact: None. Alternative projects in support of California's Colorado River Use Plan could entail fiscal impacts, which would be reported to the Board when presented for its consideration.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


 Stephen N. Arakawa
 Manager, Water Resource Management

2/28/2001
 Date


 Ronald R. Jester
 General Manager

2/28/2001
 Date