

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

September 9, 2003 Board Meeting

9-1

Subject

Authorize entering into an agreement with Psomas, in an amount not to exceed \$3 million, for environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program (Approp. 15122)

Description

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires monitoring during the design, construction, and post-construction phases of the Inland Feeder Program to ensure that mitigation measures adopted in the Final Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Final EIR/EA)/Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program are properly executed. Since April 1994, P&D Consultants (formerly P&D Technologies) has provided these services under a board-approved agreement. These environmental mitigation monitoring services will be required until 2010 during the Inland Feeder post-construction phase following completion of the Arrowhead Tunnels construction in late 2007/early 2008. This is the minimum monitoring requirement identified in the Final EIR/EA in the Inland Feeder Program.

Considering the length of time these services have been required and with over six years of remaining work, staff determined that it would be both appropriate and potentially cost-effective to solicit new proposals for the remaining mitigation monitoring work through 2010. In April 2003, Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 607 was issued for these services and eight firms responded. After a thorough review of the respondents' proposals, two firms were short-listed to proceed to oral presentations and interviews. Following extensive analysis of the two short-listed candidates' abilities and experiences, Psomas was determined to be the most qualified candidate and was recommended to provide the services required.

Mitigation monitoring services for this RFP include but are not limited to: riparian and upland site restoration and monitoring; revegetation and maintenance; San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat site restoration; San Bernardino Mountains biological monitoring; cultural resources management; and paleontologic resources treatment and management.

Based on present knowledge of the environmental conditions present along the Inland Feeder alignment, it is estimated that the remaining work to be performed by Psomas will not exceed \$3 million. However, this cost could be impacted by the actual environmental conditions experienced during construction and/or additional work ordered by the agencies with regulatory authority such as the United States Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Any increase to the requested authorization will be brought before the Board for approval prior to the expenditure.

The current projected total cost of \$978.5 million for the Inland Feeder Program includes the budget for mitigation monitoring. The \$3 million requested in this letter is a component of that budget. The Program budget remains unchanged at \$1.186 billion.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 8115: Negotiated Contracts

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Staff Recommendation:

The environmental effects from the implementation of the Inland Feeder Program were evaluated in the Inland Feeder Program Final EIR/EA, which was certified by Metropolitan's Board of Directors in February 1993. The Board also approved the Findings of Fact, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and the Inland Feeder Program. The present proposed board action is limited to an agreement for engineering support services and does not involve any changes to the Inland Feeder Program. Hence, the previous environmental documentation certified and approved by the Board in conjunction with the proposed action fully complies with the CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. As such, no further CEQA documentation is necessary for the Board to act on the proposed action.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action has been previously addressed in the certified 1993 Final EIR/EA and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize entering into an agreement with Psomas in an amount not to exceed \$3 million for environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program.

Fiscal Impact: \$3 million of budgeted CIP funds



Roy L. Wolfe
Manager, Corporate Resources

8/18/2003
Date



Ronald R. Gastelum
Chief Executive Officer

8/22/2003
Date