

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

February 14, 2006 Board Meeting

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**8-4**

**Subject**

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Authorize entering into an agreement with MWH Americas for engineering services on Colorado River Aqueduct rehabilitation projects and the Second Lower Cross Feeder project in an amount not to exceed \$6 million

**Description**

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**Colorado River Aqueduct Rehabilitation Projects**

The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is a 242-mile-long conveyance system which transports water from Lake Havasu to Lake Mathews. The CRA consists of five pumping plants, 124 miles of tunnel, 63 miles of concrete-lined canal, 55 miles of cut-and-cover conduit, inverted siphons, and reservoirs. The CRA provides the only means for Metropolitan to convey water from the Colorado River to Southern California. Although the CRA continues to perform reliably today, portions of the system are exhibiting signs of normal wear and tear, as may be expected with over 60 years of operation.

Rehabilitation of the CRA was initiated in 2001 and is expected to be substantially completed by 2009. To assist with peak-load projects, staff recommends that an engineering consultant provide technical support on board-authorized CRA rehabilitation programs. Use of consultants to supplement staff's capabilities is consistent with the Corporate Resources Group's budget and business plan for Capital Investment Plan projects. The planned agreement's scope of work will include technical studies and investigations; engineering design and production of drawings and specifications; technical support during construction; and specialized technical assistance in areas such as computational fluid dynamics modeling, control system engineering, value engineering, environmental site assessments, industrial hygiene and safety, and construction logistics planning. Use of a single firm to provide engineering services on CRA projects will improve efficiency, promote standardization of design approach and resulting improvement work, and aid in coordinating CRA shutdown activities.

The estimated value of engineering services on CRA projects planned to be assigned to the consultant over the next three years is \$5 million. Initial projects include:

- Cast Iron Blow-off Valve Replacement Phase 4,
- Aqueduct, Reservoir and Discharge Line Isolation Gates,
- San Jacinto Diversion Structure and Warren Road Gates Rehabilitation,
- Desert Water/Coachella Valley Service Connection Valve Replacement,
- Access Structure, Transition Structure and Manhole Cover Replacement, and
- Suction and Discharge Line Joint Repairs.

Authorization of these initial projects is included under a separate board action in February 2006. Additional CRA rehabilitation projects which are planned to be assigned to the consultant will be the subject of upcoming board actions.

**Second Lower Cross Feeder Project**

The Second Lower Cross Feeder project (previously termed Orange County Cross Feeder) is a new pipeline which will connect the Second Lower and East Orange County No. 2 Feeders. Design of the new pipeline will be performed by Metropolitan staff with design/drafting support from the consultant.

The estimated value of engineering services planned to be assigned to the consultant in support of the Second Lower Cross Feeder Project is \$1 million. In January 2006, Metropolitan's Board authorized preparation of final design for this project.

### **Selection Process**

Selection of a consultant to provide engineering services followed a competitive process. Request For Qualifications (RFQ) No. 757 was issued in September 2005 to obtain engineering services for new facilities and for rehabilitation projects within Metropolitan's conveyance and distribution system. In response to RFQ 757, Statements of Qualifications were submitted by 21 firms, of which eight firms were short-listed to provide the types of services planned. Staff recommends entering into a professional services agreement with MWH Americas for engineering services on CRA rehabilitation projects and the Second Lower Cross Feeder Project. MWH Americas has been selected for their expertise and flexibility in providing the necessary skills to support the planned projects.

This action authorizes the CEO to enter into a professional services agreement with MWH Americas in an amount not to exceed \$6 million. No funding or project authorizations are required under this action. No work will be performed pursuant to this agreement unless the work has been previously authorized and funded by the Board. In addition, no work is guaranteed to MWH Americas under this agreement. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation goal of 18 percent over the life of the contract. The SBE participation level for individual projects may be higher or lower, depending on the scope of work, dollar value of task, and availability of qualified SBEs. MWH Americas has committed to meet the overall SBE requirement.

### **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8117: Professional and Technical Consultants

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action consists of entering into a consultant agreement, initiating design, and carrying out basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies as a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under a Categorical Exemption (Class 6, Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

**Board Options/Fiscal Impacts**

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**Option #1**

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize an agreement with MWH Americas for engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$6 million.

**Fiscal Impact:** None, expenditures are budgeted and approved under the individual projects.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize the professional services agreement and instead use Metropolitan staff to perform all work. This option would result in delays to board-authorized programs.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

  
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Roy L. Wolfe  
Manager, Corporate Resources

2/2/2006  
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Date

  
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Debra C. Man  
Interim CEO/General Manager

2/2/2006  
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Date