

- **Board of Directors**  
**Engineering and Capital Programs Committee**

October 9, 2007 Board Meeting

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8-2

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**Subject**

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Authorize increase of \$2.2 million to existing agreement with Psomas for environmental mitigation monitoring for the Inland Feeder Program (Approp. 15122)

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**Description**

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The Inland Feeder Program consists of 44 miles of pipelines and tunnels that will enable Metropolitan to convey up to 1,000 cubic feet per second of State Water Project supplies from Devil Canyon Afterbay to Diamond Valley Lake. To date, eight of nine construction contracts totaling \$542 million have been completed. These completed contracts represent 36.3 miles or 82 percent of the Inland Feeder's length. Remaining program work includes completion of the Arrowhead Tunnels, which are presently under construction. The current contract for the Arrowhead East and West Tunnels, which was originally planned to be completed by early 2007, has a revised completion date of September 2010.

Environmental monitoring is required to ensure that mitigation measures adopted in the program's Final Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (FEIR/EA) Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program are properly executed. These environmental mitigation monitoring services are required for two years following completion of the Arrowhead Tunnels. Therefore, based on the tunnels' revised completion date, mitigation monitoring services will extend to late 2012.

Given the size and complexity of the environmental mitigation monitoring program for the Inland Feeder, Metropolitan's approach has been to utilize an outside consultant experienced in this type of specialized work. Use of a consultant to perform this function is consistent with the Corporate Resources Group's business plan and with Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan (CIP) budget. Based on a competitive selection process, an agreement with Psomas, Inc. (Psomas) was authorized by the Board in September 2003 to provide these services for the Inland Feeder Program.

The initial amount of the Psomas agreement was based on the original completion date of 2007. Staff recommends that the Psomas agreement be amended to provide mitigation monitoring services through the completion of construction of the Arrowhead Tunnels in late 2010. Prior to that date, Metropolitan will assess the level of monitoring required through 2012.

Mitigation monitoring services provided under this agreement include: 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 the current knowledge of the environmental conditions present along the Inland Feeder alignment, staff estimates that the remaining work recommended to be performed by Psomas will require an increase of \$2.2 million to the existing agreement, for a new not-to-exceed total of \$5.2 million. Definition of the scope of extended mitigation monitoring services, and their associated cost, was deferred at the time the Arrowhead Tunnels contract amendment was authorized by the Board in August 2006. Staff's plan has been to assess the long-term need in light of the new working relationship with the contractor and the actual tunneling progress achieved.

This action authorizes an increase of \$2.2 million to the existing agreement with Psomas, for a new not-to-exceed total of \$5.2 million, to provide environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program. No funds are required to be appropriated, as sufficient funds are available within the program's remaining budget.

Upon approval of this action, staff will move \$2.2 million from the remaining budget into the active portion of the program budget. The Inland Feeder Program budget remains at \$1.186 billion.

This program has been evaluated and recommended by Metropolitan's CIP Evaluation Team, and funds have been included within the fiscal year 2007/08 capital budget.

## **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 original environmental effects from the construction and operations of the Arrowhead Tunnels were evaluated in the Inland Feeder Project (i.e., IFP) Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (Final EIR/EA), which was certified by the Board in February 1993. The Board also approved the Findings of Fact (findings), the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), the Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), and IFP. The present proposed board action is solely based on extending an existing agreement with Psomas to continue providing environmental mitigation monitoring services for the IFP through late 2010 and not on any substantial changes to the original Project. Hence, the environmental documentation previously certified and approved by the Board in conjunction with the IFP is adequate for the proposed action and fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, no further environmental 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 1993 certified Final EIR/EA and related environmental documentation (i.e., findings, MMRP, and SOC) and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

## **Board Options**

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### **Option #1**

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize increase of \$2.2 million to the existing agreement with Psomas, for a new not-to-exceed total of \$5.2 million.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$2.2 million of budgeted and previously appropriated funds under Approp. 15122

**Business Analysis:** This option is the most efficient approach to acquire the needed environmental mitigation monitoring services. Psomas personnel have provided these environmental mitigation monitoring services for the past four years and have developed in-depth knowledge of the project's environmental requirements/issues, which is highly beneficial to Metropolitan.

### **Option #2**

Do not authorize the agreement amendment; staff will seek a new firm to provide environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program.

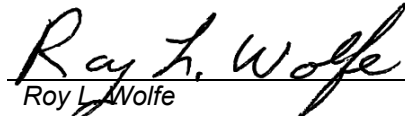
**Fiscal Impact:** Under this option, additional costs would likely be incurred above the cost of Option #1.

**Business Analysis:** Inefficiencies would be introduced if a new mitigation monitoring consultant were to be introduced at this time.

**Staff Recommendation**

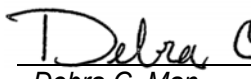
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Option #1

  
Roy L. Wolfe  
Manager, Corporate Resources

9/17/2007

Date

  
Debra C. Man  
for Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager

9/18/2007

Date

BLA #5624