



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

2/9/2010 Board Meeting

7-2

Subject

Authorize increase of \$1.4 million to existing agreement with Psomas for environmental mitigation monitoring for the Inland Feeder Program (Approp. 15122)

Description

This action authorizes an amendment to an existing agreement with Psomas to provide environmental monitoring and mitigation services along the alignment of the recently completed Arrowhead Tunnels, and to complete remaining documentation and reporting requirements for the other Inland Feeder reaches. This work will be conducted in accordance with the Inland Feeder Program's Final Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (FEIR/EA), and the Special Use Permit issued by the United States Forest Service (USFS).

Timing and Urgency

Following completion of construction activities on the Arrowhead Tunnels, Metropolitan is obligated under the conditions of the FEIR/EA and the USFS Special Use Permit to continue monitoring environmental conditions along the alignment of the tunnels. These monitoring obligations will extend for a minimum of two years following completion of construction, until approximately December 2011. These requirements could be extended further, pending review by the USFS. In addition, there are other reports and documentation which must be completed for other reaches of the Inland Feeder, specifically the Highland and Mentone Pipelines.

This work has been reviewed with Metropolitan's updated Capital Investment Plan (CIP) prioritization criteria. The Inland Feeder Program is categorized as a Supply and Delivery Reliability project and is budgeted within Metropolitan's CIP for fiscal year 2009/10.

Background

The Inland Feeder Program consists of 44 miles of pipelines and tunnels that enable Metropolitan to convey up to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of State Water Project supplies from the Department of Water Resources' Devil Canyon Afterbay to Metropolitan's Diamond Valley Lake. Construction of the Inland Feeder began in 1997 and was completed in November 2009, with the completion of the Arrowhead Tunnels.

Environmental monitoring and mitigation is required to ensure that measures adopted in the FEIR/EA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and the provisions in the USFS Special Use Permit, are properly executed. These mitigation monitoring measures are required during both the construction and post-construction phases. For the Arrowhead Tunnels, the FEIR/EA and Special Use Permit call for these measures to continue for two years following the completion of construction. With the recent completion of the tunnels, mitigation monitoring services will extend to approximately December 2011. Monitoring could be extended beyond this date based on input received from the USFS.

The initial phase of environmental monitoring work was successfully completed along with the construction of the Arrowhead Tunnels. Metropolitan is now responsible for monitoring the recovery of the impacted resources along the tunnel alignment, and for completing administrative activities still underway on other reaches of the Inland Feeder.

Specifically, post-construction environmental work will include: continuation of hydrological and biological monitoring activities along the Arrowhead Tunnels alignments; completion of final reports regarding the restoration of San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat Habitat along the Highland and Mentone Pipeline reaches; and continued compilation of administrative records and necessary documents for sign-off by regulatory agencies for completed mitigation efforts.

Amendment to Agreement for Environmental Mitigation Monitoring (No funds required)

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. Psomas was selected through a competitive process via Request for Qualifications No. 607 to perform Inland Feeder environmental work, and has performed this work since 2003 under a board-authorized agreement. As reported to the Board at that time, the initial amount of the Psomas agreement was budgeted to cover activities up through the completion of Arrowhead Tunnels construction (December 2009). Given its experience and expertise, Psomas is recommended to continue performing the environmental work through the post-construction phase of the project. The continued use of Psomas to perform these services is the most cost-effective approach to accomplish the work. Amendment of the existing Psomas agreement is consistent with the agreement's scope of work and with the planned approach for project implementation. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established a Small Business Enterprise participation level of 30 percent.

Summary

This action authorizes an increase of \$1.4 million to the existing agreement with Psomas, for a new not-to-exceed total of \$6.6 million, to provide environmental mitigation monitoring services through the post-construction phase of the Inland Feeder Program. No funds are required to be appropriated, as sufficient funds are available within the program's remaining budget. Upon board authorization of this amendment, funds will be transferred from the program's remaining budget to the active project account.

All work has been evaluated and recommended by Metropolitan's CIP Evaluation Team, and funds have been included in the fiscal year 2009/10 capital budget.

This work is consistent with Metropolitan's goals for sustainability by enhancing the reliability of the treatment, conveyance and distribution system in order to maintain reliable water deliveries in the future.

Policy

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

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The original environmental effects from the construction and operations of the Inland Feeder Program were evaluated in the Inland Feeder Program FEIR/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 the Inland Feeder Program. The present proposed board action is solely based on extending an existing agreement with Psomas to continue providing environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program 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 Inland Feeder Program 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 FEIR/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

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize increase of \$1.4 million to the existing agreement with Psomas, for a new not-to-exceed total of \$6.6 million.

Fiscal Impact: \$1.4 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 six years and have developed in-depth knowledge of the project's environmental requirements/issues, which is highly beneficial to Metropolitan.

Option #2

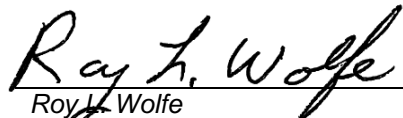
Do not authorize the agreement amendment; staff will seek a new firm to provide environmental mitigation monitoring services for the Inland Feeder Program.

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

Option #1



Roy L. Wolfe
Manager, Corporate Resources

1/27/2010

Date



Jeffrey Hightlinger
General Manager

1/27/2010

Date

Reference Number CR12602855