

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

October 10, 2011

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2-145 at Metropolitan's headquarters.

Members present: Vice Chair Brown, Directors Barbre, Blake, Camacho, De Jesus, Grunfeld, Little, Lowenthal, Montalvo, Morris, Peterson, Record, Steiner, and Wright.

Members absent: Directors Bowersox and Sanchez.

Other Board members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Ackerman, Ballin, Brick, Dick, Edwards, Lewinger, J. Murray, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Arita, Bednarski, Bell, Breaux, Campbell, Coffey, E. Freeman, J. Green, Kightlinger, Koch, Krasner, Lambeck, Man, Mead, Neal, M. Parsons, Pecs, Riss, Scully, Shraibati, Singh, Skinner, Stewart, and Waade.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

No members responded.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Approved

Motion: Director Steiner

Seconded: Director Grunfeld

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-1 Subject: Appropriate \$870,000; and award \$428,551 contract to Mehta Mechanical Company, Inc. for Stage 1 repairs of pipe expansion joints at Julian Hinds Pumping Plant (Approp. No. 15374)

Presented by: No presentation was requested.

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and
a. Appropriate \$870,000; and
b. Award \$428,551 contract to Mehta Mechanical Company, Inc., for Stage 1 repairs of pipe expansion joints at the Hinds Pumping Plant.

Motion Carried Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director Blake

7-2 Subject: Appropriate \$360,000; and authorize final design and procurement of standby generators at the Temescal and Corona Power Plants (Approp. 15441)

Presented by: No presentation was requested.

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and
a. Appropriate \$360,000; and
b. Authorize final design and procurement of standby generators at the Temescal and Corona Power Plants.

Motion Carried Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director Blake

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-1 Subject: Award \$2,159,000 contract to Doty Bros. Equipment Company for construction of the Filter Outlet Chlorination and Chemical Trench projects at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant (Approp. 15346 and 15442)

Presented by: Engineering Services Group Principal Engineer Eric Freeman

Motion Carried Moved: Director Peterson Seconded: Director Grunfeld

Mr. Freeman presented the request to award a contract to Doty Bros. Equipment Company.

Director Blake asked if Metropolitan has any experience with Doty Bros. Mr. Bednarski replied that Doty Bros. has worked on projects as subcontractors.

Director Ackerman asked what is a traffic rated cover. Mr. Freeman replied it is a large concrete cover that is used to protect the trench from vehicles.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Oral report on the Water Research Foundation's Chromium 6 Workshop

Presented by: Water System Operations Section Manager Mic Stewart

Director Morris inquired about health effects associated with the mode of chromium 6 exposure by ingestion and inhalation. Dr. Stewart replied that the inhalation of chromium 6 is known to cause cancer and that cancer associated with ingestion of chromium 6 is still a topic of discussion. Director Morris asked if chromium 6 can be converted to chromium 3 in the intestinal tract. Dr. Stewart replied that it could be converted but that health-effects research is still ongoing.

Director Lewinger asked the cost of chromium 6 treatment. Dr. Stewart replied that current costs determined through the city of Glendale study range from \$350 to \$550 per acre foot depending upon the treatment process and source water characteristics.

Director Lewinger further inquired about chromium 6 by treatment effectiveness in the Glendale study. Dr. Stewart reported removal down to two parts per billion. Chief Operating Officer Debra Man added that the cost is based on treating down to a level of two parts per billion.

- b. Subject: Update on the California Cap and Trade Regulation

Presented by: Water System Operations Unit Manager Jon Lambeck

Following a presentation by Mr. Lambeck, General Manager Jeff Kightlinger discussed the relationship between Metropolitan and California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Director Barbre inquired whether Hoover power used on Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is considered imported by CARB. Mr. Kightlinger replied that Hoover power used on the CRA is imported but it is not impacted by the Cap-and-Trade Program (Program) since the hydroelectric Hoover power does not have associated greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Kightlinger also stated there would be future discussions

regarding Metropolitan's response to the Program in closed session before the Legal and Claims Committee.

Director Record commented that the oxidation of soil in the Delta is a major contributor to greenhouse gas and that with proper restoration it can be reversed. Mr. Kightlinger responded that currently the U. S. Geologic Survey has a pilot program in the Delta to capture greenhouse gas. However, currently, CARB is working on specific industrial sectors and has not included agriculture sector at this time. Mr. Lambeck replied that CARB is discussing limiting the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that can be mitigated with offsets such as changes to farming practices. CARB's view is that the emissions should be cut or countered with allowances, not countered with other measures.

Director J. Murray inquired about the difference of opinions between CARB and Metropolitan regarding greenhouse gases. Mr. Kightlinger explained that CARB's belief is that everyone is being treated fairly. Metropolitan's view is that there are exemptions that we should qualify for but CARB has indicated that if Metropolitan is allowed to have an exemption it would create a problem with their regulatory structure.

Director De Jesus asked if there were discussions on keeping the allowances out of the investment sector. Mr. Kightlinger replied CARB's current Cap-and-Trade Program structure is the free market approach that would allow participation by the investment sector.

There were further discussions with the committee and staff.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Water System Operations Manager's report

Presented by: Water System Operations Group Manager Jim Green

Mr. Green provided an update on current operations. He mentioned that the Colorado River Aqueduct will be shut down from October 18 through November 17.

Mr. Green also gave a brief report on tastes and odors produced by algae in East Branch of the State Water Project system.

Director Peterson inquired about the water quality monitoring program at the Department of Water Resources. Mr. Green replied that Metropolitan has a service agreement with them. They provide us with samples from the entire canal, and we perform the analysis at our laboratories.

Director Morris asked about the challenges with blending water after October 18 and the large concentrations of 2-methyl-isoborneol (MIB) in the State project water. Mr. Green responded that MIB is slowly dissipating and will be monitored.

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report

Presented by: Engineering Services Unit Manager John Bednarski

Mr. Bednarski provided an update on the Inland Feeder Program and on several projects currently in construction.

Mr. Bednarski reported that the Engineering staff has continued to support the Business Outreach Program by participating in the American Asian Architect Engineer Scholarship Program and the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineer, Inc. Business function last month.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on November 7, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Tom Evans
Chair