

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**January 9, 2012**

Vice Chair Brown 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, De Jesus, Grunfeld, Little, Montalvo, Morris, Peterson, Record, Steiner, and Wright.

Members absent: Chair Evans, Directors Camacho, Chavez, Lowenthal, and Sanchez.

Other Board members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Ackerman, Brick, Dick, Edwards, Friedman, Griset, Heidel, and Lewinger.

Staff present: Arita, L. Carillo, Clairday, Coffey, H. Collins, E. Freeman, J. Green, Hicks, G. Johnson, Kightlinger, Koch, W. Lieu, Man, Mead, Pecs, Riss, Scully, Singh, B. Yamasaki, and Witt.

**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 DECEMBER 12, 2011.**

Approved

Motion: Director Steiner

Seconded: Director Grunfeld

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

**7-1**        Subject:            Appropriate \$570,000; and authorize preliminary design to replace wastewater systems at the Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants (Approp. 15385)

Presented by:    No presentation was requested.

Motion:            Adopt the CEQA determination and  
                          a. Appropriate \$570,000; and  
                          b. Authorize preliminary design to replace deteriorated wastewater systems at all five CRA pumping plants.

Motion Carried    Moved: Director Record        Seconded: Director Grunfeld  
                          Abstained: Director Morris

**7-2**        Subject:            Adopt resolution designating authorized agents to accept federal and state funding for declared disasters and to sign official correspondence for disaster assistance

Presented by:    No presentation was requested.

Motion:            Adopt the CEQA determination and approve the Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution.

Motion Carried    Moved: Director Record        Seconded: Director Grunfeld

### 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

**8-2**        Subject:            Appropriate \$3.76 million; and award \$2,982,500 contract to Cora Constructors for rehabilitation of the Copper Basin Reservoir Outlet Structure (Approp. 15373)

Presented by:    Engineering Services Principal Engineer Eric Freeman

Motion:            Adopt the CEQA determination and  
                          a. Appropriate \$3.76 million; and  
                          b. Award \$2,982,500 contract to Cora Constructors for the Copper Basin Reservoir Outlet Structure Rehabilitation.

Motion Carried    Moved: Director Steiner        Seconded: Director Morris

Mr. Freeman presented the request to rehabilitate the 70-year-old Copper Basin Outlet. This structure provides the only means of getting water into the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) and is needed to maintain reliable water deliveries through the CRA.

Director Peterson asked for confirmation that the gates would be fully functional throughout the construction period. Engineering Services Group Manager Gordon Johnson replied that they would. Director Peterson also wondered if one gate could fill the entire aqueduct. WSO Eastern Conveyance and Distribution Unit Manager Bill Pecsí replied that two gates are needed for full CRA flow.

Director Dick inquired why the successful bid was 20 percent higher than the engineer's estimate. Mr. Johnson stated that there were two primary reasons: logistical costs of building the project at a remote location and the bidder's assessment of risk of interference with the operating gates. There are three gates side-by-side, and the contractor will be working on one at a time. Since it is a tight working space, bidders tend to assign a monetary value to elements of risk, which increases their bid amount.

Director Blake questioned why the original successful bidder withdrew. Mr. Johnson answered that the contractor realized, through clerical error, that they had omitted some elements of the work. Under the Public Contracting Code, that bidder was entitled to request that the bid be withdrawn.

Director Grunfeld asked if the facility will be remotely monitored. Mr. Green responded that the facility will be remotely monitored from the Desert Operations Control Center. Also, there is a local resident at Copper Basin. Mr. Johnson added that new data and communications lines will be installed to allow remote monitoring and some control through the SCADA system.

Director Little asked if the dam walkway would be upgraded. Mr. Johnson replied that this work will be addressed when the dam sluiceway and outlet valve are rehabilitated under a future project. Staff will return to the Board to award a contract for this project next year.

## **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

None

## 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 presented a few highlights from 2011, gave an overview of the shutdown season, and mentioned the upcoming San Jacinto tunnel inspection trip dates.

Director Blake questioned when work at the Diemer plant would be 100 percent complete. Mr. Johnson replied that the ozone retrofit would be completed toward the end of 2012. However, the rehabilitation and seismic upgrade projects would be on-going for the next 4 to 5 years.

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report

Presented by: Engineering Services Group Manager Gordon Johnson

Mr. Johnson gave a brief report on a water system seismic practices workshop he attended in Japan in October 2011. Participants included agencies from Taiwan and Japan, as well as several U.S. water agencies from the West Coast. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a technical exchange on risk reduction, seismic-resistant design, and earthquake recovery. Mr. Johnson shared a portion of a presentation on "Lessons from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disasters" given by Masakatsu Miyajima from Kanazawa University, Japan.

Director Blake asked if California is doing anything in regards to preparing for an earthquake in the Delta area, where liquefaction could occur. Chief Operating Officer Debra Man responded that the Department of Water Resources has assigned engineering staff to work with Metropolitan and other contractors to study emergency conditions. Metropolitan has been proactive in ensuring there are materials in place to repair the waterways in case of a major earthquake.

Director Barbre inquired if there are any coastal portions of California that are geographically similar to Japan where the majority of the damage occurred. Mr. Johnson replied that based on input from other participants from California, the opinion was that the north coast of California and the Oregon and Washington coasts are more vulnerable than Southern California due to the configuration of the continental shelf.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Edwards requested an update on the Perris Valley Pipeline.

Director Peterson requested an update on Lake Perris in regards to the recently completed Draft Environmental Impact Report.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on February 13, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Glen Brown  
Vice Chair