



# Dewatering of the Foothill Feeder

Engineering & Operations Committee

Item 7-3

October 10, 2016

# Current Action

- Adopt CEQA determination
- Appropriate \$1.6 M
- Authorize preliminary investigations & preparation of environmental documentation for dewatering of the Foothill Feeder
- Authorize agreement with Dudek

# Distribution System



# Foothill Feeder

- 14.8 miles of tunnel & pipeline
- 5.9 mi. of 201 in. diameter PCCP
- Inspection of PCCP planned every 5-7 years
- Urgent repairs may be needed at any time
- Unique environmental issue
  - Dewatering requires discharge into Santa Clara River & tributaries
  - May impact fully-protected unarmored threespine stickleback



**Unarmored Threespine Stickleback**

# Dewatering Issues

- Center for Biological Diversity v. Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (2015)
- Handling & relocation is prohibited form of take
- Risk of impacts to UTS affects reliable operation & maintenance
- In Feb. 2016 Board authorized staff to seek legislation allowing incidental take of UTS



# AB 2488 (Dababneh/Hertzberg)

- Signed into law by Gov. Brown on Sept. 16, 2016 effective Jan. 1, 2017
- Gives CDFW authority to issue permit to Metropolitan for incidental take of UTS
- Applies to dewatering, inspection, maintenance, modification, or repair, including emergency repair
- Long-term Incidental Take Permit to handle/rescue UTS ensures reliable operation of Foothill Feeder
- ITP requires environmental documentation, mitigation, & adaptive management

# Scope of Work

- Metropolitan Staff
  - Provide support for CEQA document & permitting
  - Conduct hydraulic analyses related to dewatering
  - Identify & negotiate mitigation for incidental take
- Dudek
  - Conduct biological surveys
  - Prepare CEQA document
  - Prepare permit application
- Dudek – New Agreement
  - Selected based on specialized experience with UTS
  - Amount not to exceed \$750,000
  - SBE participation level – 18%

# Requested Funds

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## Labor

Permitting, regulatory consultations & PM	\$ 572,000
Hydraulic analyses	103,000
Professional Services	
Dudek	750,000
Remaining Budget	175,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,600,000</b>

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# Schedule



**CEQA**



**Permitting**



**Shutdown**



**Board Action**



**Completion**

# Board Options

## ● Option #1

- Adopt CEQA determination that proposed action is categorically exempt, statutorily exempt, & not subject to CEQA
- Appropriate \$1.6 million
- Authorize preliminary investigations & preparation of supplemental environmental documentation for dewatering of the Foothill Feeder
- Authorize agreement with Dudek in an amount NTE \$750,000

## ● Option #2

- Do not proceed with the investigations & environmental documentation at this time

# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

