

**Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District
Board of Directors Meeting**

March 11, 2024

Approval of Contracted Service Line Potholing

Synopsis

The Board is being requested to authorize the funding and approve the use of the City of Tempe Water Service Line Materials Field Verification cooperative purchasing contract with Metering Services Inc (MSI), for potholing services to identify the materials used in the construction of the service lines both on the District side of the meter and the customer side of the meter to determine if any lead service lines exist.

Background

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is requiring public water systems to develop a Service Line Inventory to support the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The service line inventory identifies the type of material used in the construction of the service line to determine if the line is made of Lead. At the present time, staff is not aware of any Lead service lines owned by the District; however, USEPA requires the identification of both the utility service line and the customer's service line. USEPA requires that public water systems complete and publish their service line inventories by October 16, 2024.

Issues

The combination of the five (5) public water systems operated by the District comprises nearly 23,000 water services. All of the 23,000 services need to be included in the District's service line inventory broken down into their respective systems.

Over the past several months, staff has been reviewing public documents from Pima County as well as District documents to identify when the service was constructed. A ban on Lead service lines was implemented in the late 1980's. Staff is using the date of January 1, 1990 as the cut off for potential lead service lines in accordance with current Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) guidelines. Anything constructed after this date is identified as non-lead, based on regulation.

The remaining services constructed before January 1, 1990, were divided into two groups: part of a subdivision or not part of a subdivision. ADEQ allows for representative samples (potholing) to reflect the subdivision. The thought is that they were constructed about the same time with similar materials. ADEQ is requiring at least 20 percent of a subdivision to be potholed to be considered representative. Every service that is not part of a subdivision is required to be potholed.

Using this methodology, staff came up with 4,805 services out of the 23,000 that will need to be potholed on both the District's side and the customer's side of the meter. A cooperative purchasing agreement with MSI for this type of work was developed by the City of Tempe and added to the Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE). The Board has previously authorized the District to use contracts affiliated with SAVE. The cost for the potholing method staff is recommending, is \$85.00 per service.

It is anticipated that staff will complete a minimum of 890 services in-house along with their other duties. This leaves 3,915 services to be contracted: $3,915 \times \$85.00 = \$332,775$. The Fiscal Year 2024 Budget's includes \$74,000 as part of the Investments to Support the District Mission that is designated to be used for this potholing. District staff have started the physical potholing in Metro Southwest and have issued a purchase order for a not to exceed amount of \$30,000, in accordance with the General Manager's authorization level, to MSI who has begun potholing efforts in the Metro Main service area.

Staff Recommendation

As the service line inventory is mandated by USEPA with a deadline of October 16, 2024, staff are recommending that the Board authorize the full amount of \$332,775 plus a 10 percent contingency to complete the service line investigations and approve the use of the City of Tempe Water Service Line Materials Field Verification contract. The costs will be covered by the \$74,000 in Fiscal Year 2024, under spent Capital Improvement line items in Fiscal Year 2024, and \$250,000 currently proposed in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Suggested Motion

I move to approve the use of the City of Tempe cooperative purchasing contract Water Service Line Materials Field Verification contract with Metering Services Inc for potholing the District's service lines for compliance with USEPA service line inventory requirements and authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$366,000.

Respectfully submitted,

I concur with the above-noted recommendation.
Respectfully submitted,

Steven D. Shepard
Utility Superintendent

Joseph Olsen, P.E.
General Manager