

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

**October 11, 2023**

**Authorizing the Field Survey and Legal Descriptions, Cultural, and Environmental  
Investigations for the Realignment of a Portion of the Transmission Main for the  
Northwest Recharge, Recovery, and Delivery System**

**Synopsis**

Staff is requesting the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute agreements with Rick Engineering for survey services for the acquisition of permanent waterline easements and temporary construction easements and Carollo Engineers for cultural resources review and inventory, native plant inventory, and biological evaluation necessitated by a change in the alignment of a portion of the the Northwest Recharge, Recovery, and Delivery System (NWRRDS) transmission main.

**Background**

The final plans for the NWRRDS transmission main were submitted to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on February 24, 2022. ADOT responded on August 31, 2022 that “The District [ADOT] would prefer that the 24" water line be located outside of ADOT right-of-way.” ADOT further noted that the improvements identified in the DCR (Design Concept Report) for the future widening of I-10 would necessitate moving the waterline in the future. The need to relocate the transmission main in the future was previously noted in the preliminary design report by HDR and acknowledged by the Partners.

On September 20, 2022, District staff discussed the ADOT comments with the Partners and were directed to proceed with evaluating possible alternate routes for the transmission main where it crosses I-10. Based on that evaluation, a recommended alternate route extending east from Avra Valley Road to the existing right-of-way in Cascada was identified and agreed upon by the Partners.

At the March 13, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors authorized staff to proceed with land acquisition activities related to the acquisition of easements within four parcels in support of the realignment.

**Issues**

Land acquisition is in process for the easements within the private parcels, but requires legal descriptions for the permanent and temporary construction easements. Staking along the existing

right-of-way and the proposed easements is also necessary to provide physical demarcation for the cultural and environmental surveys. The survey activities will also include the necessary topographic survey for design. Cultural services within the proposed easement areas will be completed separately by Tierra Right-of-Way as previously authorized by the Board of Directors. Cultural resources surveys along the existing right-of-way are necessary to confirm if any historic resources are present. Environmental studies, including the native plant inventory and the biological evaluation, are needed along the existing right-of-way and within the proposed easement areas.

The estimated cost for survey services by Rick Engineering is \$49,550.00. Carollo estimates \$88,461.00 for the cultural resources review and survey, native plant inventory, and biological evaluation. An additional 10% contingency is added to enable the District to proceed with any unanticipated conditions, for a total cost of \$151,812.00. Because these services are necessary to accommodate a change in the alignment, the Partners agreed to share the cost proportionally as authorized by Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 23005-00. The District's share is \$58,389.23.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Rick Engineering for survey services in the amount of \$49,550.00 and with Carollo Engineers for environmental services in the amount of \$88,461.00. It is also recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to increase the purchase amount by 10% or \$13,801.00 to address any unforeseen conditions that arise subsequent to the Board of Director's action and prior to completion of the services.

### **Suggested Motion**

I move to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute agreements with Rick Engineering and Carollo Engineers for survey and environmental services for a combined value of \$138,011.00 and to authorize the General Manager to increase the purchase amount by \$13,801.00 to address any unforeseen conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bowen, P.E.  
District Engineer

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

Joseph Olsen, P.E.  
General Manager