



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Purchase of Air Compressor Equipment to Replace Aging Equipment at the Nicasio Reservoir  
**From:** Darren Machado, Director of Operations  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**        X        Action                    Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a purchase order with Kaeser Compressors, Inc for purchase of replacement air compressor equipment for Nicasio Reservoir in the amount of \$115,268.73 and authorize the General Manager to execute the purchase order

**SUMMARY:** The air compressors at Nicasio Reservoir were installed in 1995 and are over 30 years old, reaching the end of their useful life. These compressors provide compressed air for reservoir aeration, which is essential for maintaining water quality through mixing, reducing algae growth, and supporting the aquatic ecosystem.

This project includes the replacement of the two existing air compressors and associated components, including the air receiver tank, air filters, and oil-water separator at Nicasio Reservoir. The new air compressors are also expected to improve energy efficiency, resulting in an estimated \$15,000 in annual energy savings.

**DISCUSSION:** The Nicasio Reservoir is the District's second-largest water reservoir and has historically experienced water quality challenges including taste and odor issues associated with algae growth. To mitigate these issues, an aeration system was installed in 1995. The aeration system helps mix and oxygenate the water to maintain adequate water quality, reduce algae growth, and support the aquatic ecosystem in the reservoir.

The air compressors are over 30 years old and are at the end of their useful life. The existing aged compressor system requires frequent maintenance and repairs to remain operational, and staff has encountered difficulties obtaining replacement parts. Additionally, the increased energy efficiency of the new air compressors will provide an estimated \$15,000 per year in energy savings while delivering comparable air flow to the reservoir.

The equipment proposed for purchase includes the two replacement air compressors and associated components including the air receiver tank, oil-water separator, and air filters. The oil-water separator prevents oil from being discharged into the reservoir.

A similar Kaeser air compressor system was recently installed at Bon Tempe Lake in 2024 and has performed well. Staff recommends installing the same equipment at Nicasio Reservoir to allow for interchangeable parts between the two systems, as well as time and financial savings associated with staff training for the new equipment. The installation of the new air compressors and associated components will be completed in-house by Mechanical & Electrical staff.

Staff is recommending the Board authorize the purchase of replacement air compressor equipment from Kaeser Compressors, Inc for the Nicasio Reservoir in the amount of \$115,268.73.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funding for this operational maintenance item was identified in the 2026/2027 Capital Budget. The cost of the equipment purchase is \$115,268.73.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.

| DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION | DIVISION MANAGER                                                                    | APPROVED                                                                              |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operations             |  |  |
|                        | Darren Machado<br>Operations Director                                               | Ben Horenstein<br>General Manager                                                     |