



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Operations Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Water System Master Plan Update and Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 5875
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: January 17, 2025

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive an informational update on the Water System Master Plan, and review and refer to a future regularly scheduled Board meeting for approval Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 5875 with Woodard and Curran to extend the contract date and expand the scope of services to support ongoing capital infrastructure planning

SUMMARY: The District’s Water System Master Plan (WSMP) informs long-term capital investment efforts needed to improve the water system’s infrastructure which included an update of the District’s planning and design criteria; focused evaluation of the Ross Valley system, including the siting of the new Pine Mountain Tunnel tanks; and overall system evaluation looking at long term renewal rates for District assets. During the WSMP process, staff also engaged the consultant on specific, in-depth evaluations for certain assets. While all the WSMP deliverables are complete, longer term capital planning efforts continue and in support of these efforts, staff is requesting to extend the completion date for the contract with Woodard & Curran as well as expand the scope of services to include general on-call grant capital infrastructure planning development for District projects, in an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$1,938,528.

DISCUSSION: In August 2020, the District awarded the WSMP contract to Woodard & Curran due to the organization’s extensive experience preparing Water System Master Plans, its organized approach to the system evaluation and understanding of the District’s complex infrastructure needs, as well as understanding of the capital investment challenges facing water utilities similar to those of the District. The first task included numerous site visits of storage tanks and pumping stations to get a representative overview of the District’s assets and key challenges. Over a dozen sites were visited, ranging from large facilities, such as Smith Saddles tanks, to small postage stamp sites, like Mesa Vista pump station. Concurrently, planning and design criteria were evaluated and adjusted, along with system-level modeling, to ensure that future improvements targeted assets for which the investment provides the greatest value.

In January 2021, the project moved into the next task, a focused evaluation of the Ross Valley system, which supplies water to approximately 44,000 customers (23% of the District's customers), and Pine Mountain Tunnel. This task involved the development and evaluation of alternatives for resolution of the dual challenges presented by the lack of adequate storage in Ross Valley and the poor condition of two critical storage facilities that serve Ross Valley; Ross Reservoir and Pine Mountain Tunnel. To date, the Pine Mountain Tanks project is well underway; CEQA and site work are complete; and staff is finalizing the tanks' design, with tank construction to begin in August 2025 and completing in January 2029.

Once the Pine Mountain Tanks project moved into the design phase, the WSMP team looked at the remainder of the system and provided an overall system evaluation to maintain reliability and improve operability of the water system in the long-term. This review included the evaluation of major elements of the distribution system, including pipelines, storage tanks, pump stations, and pressure regulating facilities, using the updated planning and design criteria to highlight system deficiencies. Staff and the consultant also examined the method of District prioritization of pipeline and other system component replacements to establish longer term rates of renewal by asset class to inform long-term capital investment planning as well as short-term high priority projects within the system.

During this time, there were also specific evaluations performed on individual assets to look at potential site improvements and alternatives analyses to aid in long-term capital planning efforts. These included a broader site evaluation for the replacement of Hind Tanks, a seismic evaluation of the existing San Geronimo Treatment Plant clarifiers, an evaluation of renewable energy opportunities, and a close look at the Wolfback Ridge piping and tank system across the Sausalito area. Each of these evaluations were critical and added appropriate expertise to existing staff resources which allowed the District to evaluate these assets in a timely fashion for both budgeting and planning purposes.

Throughout the project, the contract was amended twice to extend the time for completion of the work, with the current contract lasting through June 2025. To date, all deliverables for the WSMP are complete, and staff also recognizes that longer term capital planning efforts are ongoing. To aid in these efforts, staff is requesting to extend the completion date for the contract as well as expand the scope of services to include general on-call grant capital infrastructure planning development for District projects, in an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000, for a new total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$1,938,528.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this contract is identified in the adopted Capital budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 under the A1A16 Program Management fund center.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.