



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Planning Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Phoenix and Bon Tempe Outlet Valve Design Contract
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: March 24, 2026



TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed Phoenix and Bon Tempe Outlet Valve Design Contract

SUMMARY: The District owns and operates seven reservoirs and associated dams. Two dams, Phoenix and Bon Tempe, have outlet valves that have reached the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement. The District is proposing a contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) to perform design, environmental compliance, and permitting services to replace these two valves.

DISCUSSION: The District owns and operates seven reservoirs and associated dams. The dams were constructed between 1872 and 1979 and, like all other District infrastructure, require routine maintenance.

Phoenix Dam is an earth-embankment dam originally constructed in 1907 and raised in 1969 and impounds Phoenix Reservoir. The dam is approximately 94 feet high with a crest elevation of approximately 189 ft (MSL). As part of the 1969 improvements, a new intake structure was constructed, and upgrades were made to outlet appurtenances and sections of pipe. Since that time, only routine maintenance has been performed. The outlet valve is currently at the end of its useful life and no longer closes properly and needs to be replaced.

Bon Tempe Dam is an earth-embankment dam originally constructed in 1949. The dam is approximately 98 feet high with a crest elevation of approximately 723 feet (MSL) and impounds Bon Tempe Reservoir. Bon Tempe Reservoir serves as the primary water supply source for the Bon Tempe Water Treatment Plant. In 2004, the District completed improvements to the outlet works that included installation of hydraulically operated outlet valves. In 2024, crews identified a hydraulic leak on of these valves. In 2025, the District, with assistance from Underwater Resources, Inc., a specialized underwater construction firm, performed an underwater inspection of the outlet valves and confirmed the valves need to be replaced.

District staff is proposing to contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI), a firm that has over 50 years of experience in dam design and safety retrofits and has completed dam projects in all 50 states. The proposed work focuses on replacement of both Phoenix and Bon Tempe outlet control elements and associated actuation systems. Services include document review, field investigations (including further underwater inspections), preliminary design, final design, regulatory coordination and permitting with the state Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), environmental documentation support, and bidding support assistance. GEI has performed numerous feasibility level designs, final designs, preparation of plans and specifications, and construction management. GEI's staff are local to the Bay Area, and the proposed team have completed dam projects from concept through construction and include former DSOD employees.

The proposal submitted by GEI provides a comprehensive approach based on their subject matter expertise, familiarity with the District's system from performing work on the District's dam assessments, and attention to detail. District staff recommends the District select GEI to proceed with the Phoenix and Bon Tempe Outlet Valve Design Contract.

Budget:

Professional Services Agreement: \$1,155,588

Contingency (15%): \$173,000

Total Budget: \$1,328,588

Budget Category: A1A05

The proposed design services are anticipated to be completed in April 2027.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Phoenix and Bon Tempe Outlet Valve Design Contract is funded in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Adopted Capital Budget and is in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. As shown in the table below, the total cost for the agreement with GEI is \$1,155,588 with a staff requested contingency of \$173,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$1,328,588.

Staff recommends that the Planning Committee review and comment on the Phoenix and Bon Tempe Outlet Valve Design Contract.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.