



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Carollo Engineers for Engineering Design of Atmospheric River Capture Project
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement No. 6418, with Carollo Engineers to provide engineering design services for a second pump station for the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project for an additional amount not to exceed \$1,458,832, increasing the total contract amount to \$11,158,067; and, Authorize the General Manager to execute the contract amendment

SUMMARY: On April 15, 2025, the Board of Directors approved a Professional Services Agreement with Carollo Engineers in the amount of \$9,699,235 to provide engineering services for the preliminary and final design of the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project. The original design scope assumed a single pump station facility; however, detailed hydraulic analysis completed during the basis of design phase indicates that a second pump station will improve system operations and accommodate potential future expansion of proposed Project. Amendment No. 1 will add design scope services and fees for a second pump station. These additional services in the amount of \$1,458,832 will increase the previously approved contract amount of \$9,699,235 to a new not to exceed amount of \$11,158,067.

DISCUSSION: Following the 2020–2022 drought emergency, the District developed a Water Supply Roadmap to improve long-term water supply reliability during dry periods. The Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project was identified as a key project in the Roadmap to capture surplus winter water from the Russian River and convey it to Nicasio Reservoir for storage and use during dry conditions.

On April 15, 2025, the Board authorized a Professional Services Agreement with Carollo Engineers to complete the preliminary and final design of the ARC Project. At that time, the conceptual design assumed a single pump station near the North Marin Aqueduct that would convey water through approximately 13 miles of new pipeline to Nicasio Reservoir. As design has progressed through development of the Basis of Design Report (BODR), a more detailed hydraulic analysis of the pipeline system was performed to better understand system pressures, equipment sizing, and long-term operational requirements. This analysis evaluated two alternatives: constructing a single pump station

or constructing two pump stations operating in series. The hydraulic evaluation found that a single pump station configuration would result in very high operating pressures in portions of the pipeline, which would require specialty piping, valves, and other equipment designed for higher pressure conditions.

To address these issues, the design team evaluated a dual pump station configuration consisting of Pump Station A near the North Marin Aqueduct and Pump Station B near Stafford Lake. Installing a second pump station allows the pumping head to be divided between the two facilities, significantly reducing operating pressures in the pipeline and allowing the use of more standard materials and equipment.

The analysis also considered long-term system expansion. The ARC Project is planned to initially convey approximately 10 to 15 million gallons of water per day, with a potential future expansion to approximately 30 million gallons per day. The dual pump station configuration better supports this future expansion because two pump stations will ultimately be required to operate the system at higher capacity. Constructing both facilities during the initial phase of the project reduces the need for future retrofit of high-pressure components and allows the District to design the system for its long-term operating configuration.

The proposed amendment adds the engineering services necessary to complete the preliminary and final design of Pump Station B, including development of construction drawings and specifications, preparation of cost estimates, and support during the bidding phase. The additional design services are estimated at \$1,458,832 and shown in Table 1. Approval of Amendment No. 1 will allow the design team to proceed with completing the design of Pump Station B and ensure that the ARC Project is designed to operate reliably under anticipated hydraulic conditions and future system expansion.

Table 1
Atmospheric River Capture Project
Engineering Design Scope of Work and Fee Summary

Task Description	Budget
Task 1 – Project Management: This task includes conducting project progress meetings, preparing monthly progress reports, preparing and attending Board presentations, internal technical reviews and quality assurance, coordination with sub-consultants	\$82,588
Task 3—Field Investigations: This task includes conducting a supplemental topographic survey ground survey	\$35,789
Task 12—Develop Pump Station B Construction Documents: This task includes development of 60%-, 90%-, and 100%- pump station design document submittals and probable construction costs, conducting review meetings with District staff at each level of design development	\$1,324,218
Task 13— Pump Station B Bid Phase Services: This task includes supporting the District during pump station bidding period, including responding to bidders’ questions, interpreting construction documents, and attending on-site meetings	\$16,237
TOTAL	\$1,458,832

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Environmental review for the ARC Project is being conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Initial Study (IS) has been completed and Notice of Preparation (NOP) is set for publication on March 13 with comments accepted until April 13. Additionally, community scoping meetings have been set as follows:

- Wednesday, March 25 | 6:00–7:00 PM at the Novato Recreation Center - 950 7th Street, Novato and
- Thursday, March 26 | 5:30–6:30 PM San Ramon Elementary School, Multipurpose Room - 45 San Ramon Way, Novato.

FISCAL IMPACT: The original Professional Services Agreement with Carollo Engineers was approved in the amount of \$9,699,235. Amendment No. 1 will increase the contract amount by \$1,458,832 to provide engineering design services for the additional pump station, resulting in a revised total contract amount of \$11,158,067. Funding for this work is included within the ARC Project design budget in the adopted Capital Improvement Program and FY26 & FY27 budgets.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Scope of Services & Fee - Pump Station B

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Water Resources	 <hr/> Paul Sellier Water Resources Director	 <hr/> Ben Horenstein General Manager