

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 20
HELD AT THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

September 14, 2023
11:30 o'clock, A.M.

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 20 of Los Angeles County met in regular session.

There were present: Richard Loa, Director from Palmdale
Laura Bettencourt, Chairperson, Director from Palmdale

Absent: Janice Hahn, Director from Los Angeles County

Also present: Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary to the Board
Brant Dveirin, District Counsel

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public. There were no public comments or questions to address the Board on any matters not listed on the agenda.

RE: MINUTES Upon motion of the Chairperson, duly seconded and held June 8, 2023, were approved. unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting

RE: DISTRICT EXPENSES The following expenses for the months of April, May, and June 2023, were presented and upon motion of the Chairperson, duly seconded and unanimously carried, were approved:

Local District Expenses:	
Operations & Maintenance	\$3,501,382
Capital	950,173
Legal	2,062
Allocated Expenses:	
Joint Administration	347,687
Technical Support	358,316
Legal	12,277
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,171,897</u>

RE: WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 20 TRUNK SEWERS GROUP 1 REHABILITATION - AWARD CONTRACT NO. 5549 TO INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC - ORDER SECRETARY TO EXECUTE

The *District 20 Trunk Sewers Group 1 Rehabilitation* (Project) will consist of rehabilitation of approximately 9,437 feet of existing 10-inch to 15-inch-diameter corroded concrete pipe and appurtenant structures that were constructed in the 1950s. The work is located within the City of Palmdale and unincorporated area of

Los Angeles County as was shown on the map attached to the agenda. The bid summary/recommendation to award was attached to the agenda. Staff has determined that the Project is exempt or otherwise not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations ("CEQA Guidelines") Section 15301. This item is consistent with the Districts' Guiding Principles to protect financial and facility assets through prudent investment and maintenance programs; and commitment to operational excellence (protection of public health and the environment, regulatory compliance, and cost effectiveness). The bids received at the District's office on July 27, 2023, for construction of the Project are as follows:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Insituform Technologies, LLC	\$1,170,239.00
Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp.	\$1,362,195.00
Nu Line Technologies, LLC	\$1,390,200.00

The bid of Insituform Technologies, LLC, was the lowest bid received and that Insituform Technologies, LLC, was the lowest, regular, responsible bidder for the work, and a recommendation was made to award a contract to Insituform Technologies, LLC, at the unit prices stated in its bid amounting to approximately

\$1,170,239. Furthermore, a recommendation was made to order staff to review the insurance and surety bonds for performance and payment and, if sufficient, order the Secretary to execute the contract with Insituform Technologies, LLC, for construction of the Project.

Upon motion of Director Loa, duly seconded and unanimously carried, Contract No. 5549 for construction of the *District 20 Trunk Sewers Group 1 Rehabilitation* was awarded to the lowest, regular, responsible bidder, to wit: Insituform Technologies, LLC, at the unit prices stated in its bid amounting to approximately \$1,170,239. Furthermore, the Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 20 of Los Angeles County ordered the staff to review the insurance and surety bonds for performance and payment and, if sufficient, ordered the Secretary to execute the contract with Insituform Technologies, LLC, for construction of the Project.

RE: WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT 20 TRUNK SEWERS GROUP 2
REHABILITATION - AWARD CONTRACT
NO. 5550 TO SOUTHWEST PIPELINE AND
TRENCHLESS CORP. - ORDER SECRETARY
TO EXECUTE

The *District 20 Trunk Sewers Group 2 Rehabilitation* (Project) will consist of rehabilitation of approximately 14,395 feet of existing 12-inch to 18-inch-diameter corroded concrete pipe and appurtenant structures that were constructed in the 1950s. The work is located within the City of Palmdale as was shown on the map attached to the agenda. The bid summary/ recom-

mendation to award was attached to the agenda. Staff has determined that the Project is exempt or otherwise not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”) Section 15301. This item is consistent with the Districts’ Guiding Principles to protect financial and facility assets through prudent investment and maintenance programs; and commitment to operational excellence (protection of public health and the environment, regulatory compliance, and cost effectiveness). The bids received at the District’s office on August 17, 2023, for construction of the Project are as follows:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
Southwest Pipeline & Trenchless Corp.	\$2,826,481.00
Insituform Technologies, LLC	\$3,028,205.00

The bid of Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. was the lowest bid received and that Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. was the lowest, regular, responsible bidder for the work, and a recommendation was made to award a contract to Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. at the unit prices stated in its bid amounting to approximately \$2,826,481. Furthermore, a recommendation was made to order staff to review the insurance and surety bonds for performance and payment and, if sufficient, order the Secretary to execute the contract with Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. for construction of the Project.

Upon motion of Director Loa, duly seconded and unanimously carried, Contract No. 5550 for construction of the *District 20 Trunk Sewers Group 2 Rehabilitation* was awarded to the lowest, regular, responsible bidder, to wit: Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. at the unit prices stated in its bid amounting to approximately \$2,826,481. Furthermore, the Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 20 of Los Angeles County ordered the staff to review the insurance and surety bonds for performance and payment and, if sufficient, ordered the Secretary to execute the contract with Southwest Pipeline and Trenchless Corp. for construction of the Project.

RE: WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
EMERGENCY REPAIR OF PALMDALE
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT AS RESULT
OF DAMAGES CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM
HILARY - CONFIRM PURCHASE ORDERS TO
R&B AUTOMATION, INC. AND PONTON
INDUSTRIES, INC.

On August 20, 2023, the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) received an unprecedented amount of wastewater flow from inflow and infiltration (I&I) to the sewer system due to Tropical Storm Hilary. The sustained peak flows from I&I overwhelmed several unit processes and caused plant flooding and subsequent damage to plant equipment, impacting the efficacy of treatment and leading to the discharge of undertreated

sewage to out-of-service ponds on the plant premises. Besides the confirm issuance of these purchase orders to R&B Automation, Inc., (R&B) and Ponton Industries, Inc. (Ponton), various other contractors and equipment vendors were mobilized for emergency response, clean-up and repair activities at an additional expense of about \$193,000, for a total cost of approximately \$480,000. The Chief Engineer and General Manager provided a report on these emergency response and repair activities. This item is consistent with the Districts’ Guiding Principle of commitment to operational excellence (protection of public health and the environment, regulatory compliance, and cost effectiveness). A recommendation was made for the Board to confirm the issuance of purchase orders to R&B, in the amount of approximately \$146,000, to replace the electric valve actuators for the secondary treatment system and to Ponton, in the amount of approximately \$151,000, for flow metering and electrical instrumentation equipment for the secondary treatment system at the Palmdale WRP as a result of damages caused by tropical storm Hilary.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that as much as 4.4 inches of rainfall was measured in the area as a result of the storm. For comparison, this single intense storm event resulted in the highest daily rainfall ever recorded for the Palmdale area and was more than the total annual rainfall for the area in 2021 and 2022 combined. The Palmdale WRP influent flow increased by 2.6 times from normal over a 13-hour period on August 20. Peak flows typically are 13 million gallons per day (MGD) over 2 hours, and during Tropical Storm Hillary, peak flows averaged about 30 MGD over 13 hours.

The storm impacted primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment facilities, resulting in process overflows, equipment shutdowns, and ultimately affecting effluent water quality and management. The sustained peak flows led to a process upset of tertiary filters. The filters were blinded by secondary solids with the overflow going back to the secondary effluent equalization basin (unit process before the filters).

He advised that emergency bypass pumping to out-of-service ponds was conducted. He showed a slide that included the secondary effluent equalization basin, which was filling up because the filters were blinded, and the flow filling the basin was approximately three times more than what was being pumped out. The slide also showed the mobile bypass pumping equipment which were brought into draw down the equalization basin with discharge going to the out-of-service pond.

He reported that the undertreatment of 42 million gallons (MG) of sewage were comprised of approximately: 24 MGs of undisinfected secondary effluent went to out-of-service ponds; 16.5 MGs of disinfected secondary effluent went to out-of-service ponds and reservoirs; and 1.5 MGs of partially treated sewage was recovered from plant galleries. The Chief Engineer and General Manager noted there was no raw sewage spilling onto public streets. Because no raw sewage spilled, it is not considered an unpermitted discharge, but the District will have to wait to see what, if anything, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board decides to do in terms of enforcement for the use of the out-of-service ponds.

He advised that treatment suitable for agricultural reuse was restored on Wednesday, August 23, and treatment suitable for the City of Palmdale reuse was restored on Friday, August 25.

He discussed potential Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance for recovery and repair efforts. Efforts to dewater and clean-up the flooded areas and process tanks; and repair of damaged motors, electrical and instrumentation are in the works. He advised that approximately \$480K in total was spent on new equipment and repair services. He asked that the City contact the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management if there are storm related damages as it will help determine if FEMA assistance will be made available. Impacts for District sewers in the vicinity are also being reviewed.

In response to the Chairperson, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that the ponds are adjacent to the Palmdale WRP and they are not open to the public.

In response to Director Loa, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that fines could be estimated at \$10 per gallon of discharged sewage spill. This fee could also be waived. Ms. Erika Bensch, Reuse and Compliance Manager, Technical Services Department, advised that an initial report has been submitted and monitoring data will be submitted at a later date.

Upon motion of the Chairperson, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board confirmed the issuance of purchase orders to R&B Automation, Inc., in the amount of approximately \$146,000 and to Ponton Industries, Inc., in the amount of approximately \$151,000 for emergency repairs at the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant as a result of damages caused by Tropical Storm Hilary.

RE: TECHNICAL SERVICES - THIRD AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE OF RECYCLED WATER - PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT CONTRACT NOS. 5001C - APPROVE

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that in October 2016, the *Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Recycled Water* (Agreement) was executed between Sanitation District No. 20 and Palmdale Water District (PWD). The Agreement provided PWD the option to purchase up to 5,325 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water produced by the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) consisting of up to 4,000 AFY for use at the proposed Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge and Recovery Project and up to 1,325 AFY for use at direct reuse sites along a proposed expansion of an existing recycled water distribution system in the City of Palmdale. The Agreement's First and Second Amendments, executed in September 2019, and October 2021, respectively, extended the Agreement's duration, adjusted minimum purchase requirements, and extended milestone deadlines. Since the Second Amendment's execution, PWD indicated that they will no longer pursue expansion of direct reuse in favor of using the entire allotment to support their proposed groundwater recharge project, which is now referred to as Pure Water Antelope Valley (PWAV). PWAV would include advanced treatment of recycled water from the Palmdale WRP and direct injection of the purified water into the groundwater. The proposed *Third Amendment to Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Recycled Water* (Third Amendment) combines the allotments into one amount for all groundwater recharge (5,325 AFY); revises

milestones that PWD must meet for PWAV to continue to secure the allotment; and provides an extension for the mandatory minimum annual payment to start until after PWAV is in operation. If implemented, PWAV will beneficially reuse recycled water produced at the Palmdale WRP and could offset the need to build additional recycled water storage facilities. Staff has determined that the Third Amendment described herein is exempt or otherwise not subject to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”) Section 15301. This item is consistent with the Districts’ Guiding Principles to provide reliable and responsible services with safety first; to maximize use of our assets and resources (recycled water, recyclables, and energy); and the commitment to operational excellence (protection of public health and the environment, regulatory compliance, and cost effectiveness). A recommendation was made to approve and order executed a Third Amendment to the Agreement with PWD.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the District does not have the ability to sell recycled water within the territory of water agencies and the City of Palmdale (City) must also go through a third party and cannot be its own purveyor. The Antelope Valley is a closed basin with limited surface waters to discharge to and thus the District contracts for the sale of recycled water for municipal reuse with cities and water agencies. PWD is planning PWAV, a recycled water use project that creates new purified potable water supply, and has requested updates to their existing agreement to coincide with the PWAV project schedule. District staff contacted the other major water purveyor for the city, LA County Waterworks District No. 40, who indicated they had no plans to use the recycled water. He stated that PWD is currently seeking grants for funding PWAV. He also reviewed a similar project planned by the Districts and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the City of Carson.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager introduced Dennis LaMoreaux, the General Manager for PWD. Mr. LaMoreaux advised that the proposed amendment does not change the recycled water allotment or the term of the Agreement but only changes the milestones to reflect the change from blending and spreading tertiary recycled water for recharge to an advanced purification and direct injection project.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the milestones in the Agreement are intended to ensure the project is progressing. If there is no progress, the Districts can come back and revise the Agreement.

The Chairperson stated that she is fearful that people will feel the City is losing control, as there is pushback against the amendment. She stated she was confused and had not heard clear answers.

Mr. LaMoreaux stated that it will depend on what exactly that fear is. Potable reuse for citizens of Palmdale is the highest and best use of recycled water. PWD’s mission for 100 years is to provide water for our ratepayers. Creating a new source of potable water for the City’s citizens is a goal and is possible within the 10-year plan. This project has evolved in order to get to this point today.

In response to Director Loa, Mr. LaMoreaux stated exchanging groundwater is not part of the project. Highly treated recycled water with minerals added would be injected into groundwater and pumped back out by PWD and used by customers. No City rights are affected. Use of potable water at City parks is a separate issue, but the PWD would like to discuss partnership options at a later time.

In response to Director Loa, the Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the recycled water being discussed for this project cannot be sold to customers directly. PWD is the water purveyor for most of the City and that is why the Districts entered into an agreement to sell them the water. Under State Duplication of Service laws, the City and District must contract with a third-party purveyor.

In response to the Chairperson, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that the item could be tabled to a future meeting so the City could get more information. He stated that LA County Waterworks District No. 40 and PWD were the only purveyors serving the city.

The Chairperson indicated a need to table the item. Director Loa agreed, indicating he wanted to review the proposal in more detail. He expressed a concern with what the City is giving up.

In response to the Chairperson, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised the project does not involve an exchange. The high cost of the project is related to the need for advanced treatment. Without the project the District will continue to farm with the recycled water.

In response to Director Loa, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that if funding fell through, the recycled water would be returned to the District and the Agreement could be cancelled. The project is our best and only option at this time.

Mr. LaMoreaux stated that the milestones did not negatively affect funding. The state regulations made them step back, and a new approach was adopted to implement full advanced treatment.

The Chairperson recognized Marvin Crist, Councilmember, City of Lancaster, who requested to make a statement as a public participant. Mr. Crist stated that the water rights could be sold to the City as the City of Lancaster has done.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that the City of Lancaster purchased groundwater.

Mr. Crist stated that the City could sell the recycled water to a purveyor. The City could control where the water goes, and they exchange the water for farming. This is specifically allowed under the groundwater adjudication.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the District or the City could sell water to a farmer but that is a different deal.

In response to Mr. Crist, Mr. LaMoreaux advised that the project includes a \$15 million demonstration testing facility and an option of a \$150 million full project after the demonstration proves successful. The agreement runs until 2048. The recycled water to be utilized is half the amount that the Palmdale WRP produces.

In response to Director Loa, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that the only staff report available was the details in the agreement.

The Chairperson indicated she would meet with Mr. LaMoreaux, and then this item could be brought back at a future meeting.

The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated staff would wait for the Chairperson's direction to place the item back on the agenda at a future meeting.

Upon motion of Director Loa, duly seconded and unanimously carried, a motion to table the item was approved.


RE: STATUS REPORT/DIRECTOR COMMENTS
ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Certificate of Recognition Program for Qualifying Industries. The Chief Engineer and General Manager stated that the Districts regulates industries that dis-charge into our system. The Districts' Industry Advisory Council, which was formed 27 years ago, recommended the program in order to publicly recognize and promote those industries who have achieved full compliance with the Districts' industrial waste program. Out of 800 industrial waste dischargers that the Districts regulates, 320 were in full compliance with all Districts' industrial waste requirements for the 2022 calendar year, and 80 of the industrial waste dischargers remained in full compliance for five or more consecutive years. All Directors and City Managers will be receiving a letter to recognize these industrial waste dischargers. Districts' staff is available to assist cities with recognizing industries at City Council meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson.


LAURA BETTENCOURT
Chairperson

ATTEST:


KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN
Secretary

/cc