



**Board of Directors  
November 20, 2019**

**SUBJECT:**

Approve and Authorize Agreement with Helix Environmental Planning (\$213,986) for the Purified Water Replenishment Project Environmental Impact Report and Appropriation of \$213,986

**BACKGROUND:**

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is advancing development and implementation of the Purified Water Replenishment (PWR) Project to replenish the San Jacinto Upper Pressure Groundwater Management Zone aquifer with recycled water and advanced treated water. The PWR program reduces reliance on imported water sources, provide improved drought resiliency, and improves the quality of the groundwater basin.

The PWR Project includes construction and operation of new advanced water treatment facilities near the District's existing San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, the use of existing and new recycled water pipelines, a water blending facility at the Alessandro Ponds, and the use of existing Mountain Avenue West recharge basins. The PWR Project would also require the construction and use of evaporation ponds for brine management and the use of production wells for potable deliveries.

On September 9, 2019, EMWD requested proposals to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from five environmental consulting firms for the PWR Project. On October 8, 2019, EMWD received proposals from four firms: Psomas, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), Woodard and Curran, and Helix Environmental Planning, Incorporated (Helix).

The scoring categories for the consultants included the firm's qualification and experience, experience of assigned personnel, project understanding and approach, availability of resources and local office, quality of proposal and fee.

The review panel; composed of Engineering, Water Resources Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance staff, identified Helix as the highest ranked consultant as well as the lowest fee for performing the PWR project EIR as presented in Exhibit A.

Therefore, staff recommends award of contract to Helix to conduct the PWR EIR as presented in Exhibit B.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funding for this item is provided for in the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL/OBJECTIVE:**

Water Supply Diversity and Reliability: Develop and implement a portfolio of projects and management techniques to achieve a reliable and cost-effective balance of water supplies utilizing imported, local and recycled water sources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

This project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An Environmental Impact Report will be prepared for the Purified Water Replenishment Project in conformance with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 7, Sections 15080 to 15097, and Article 9, Sections 15120 to 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize the execution by the General Manager, or his designee, of agreement with Helix Environmental Planning, Incorporated, in the amount of \$213,986 for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the Purified Water Replenishment Project and appropriation in the amount of \$213,986.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager

11/8/2019

  
Joe Mouawad, Assistant General Manager

11/5/2019

**Attachment(s):**

*Exhibit A - Firm Selection Evaluation*  
*Exhibit B - Helix EIR Proposal*  
*Presentation*

11/20/19 Board Meeting

Staff Contact: Joe Broadhead