



## COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

### Board Action Item

**Board Meeting Date:** 7/26/2016

**TO:** Board of Directors

**SUBJECT:** Authorization for General Manager to sign Task Orders No. 5 and No. 6 with MWH Americas, Inc. for Preparation of Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plans for Whitewater River (Indio) Subbasin and for Mission Creek Subbasin

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### Description and Location

The purpose of this Board Action Item is to authorize two Task Orders with MWH Americas, Inc. (MWH) to prepare Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP's) for the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Each plan will also include a 2016 status of groundwater overdraft.

Alternative GSP's must be submitted to DWR by January 1, 2017. An Alternative GSP is any of the following:

1. A plan developed under previous groundwater management law (AB 3030 and SB 1938),
2. A plan developed pursuant to an adjudication,
3. An analysis of basin conditions that demonstrates that the basin has operated within its sustainable yield over a period of at least 10 years.

CVWD's 2010 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan (2010 CVWMP), and the Mission Creek/Garnet Hill Water Management Plan (MCGH WMP) are AB 3030 and SB 1938 compliant and are the primary documents that will constitute the Alternative GSP's. In addition, CVWD's 2014 Status report of the Indio subbasin demonstrated that the basin operated within its sustainable yield over a 10-year period.

On October 13, 2015 the Board authorized CVWD staff to file a notice of intent with the Department of Water Resources to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) over portions of the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins within CVWD's Boundary. Desert Water Agency (DWA) is designated as an exclusive Groundwater Management agency under SGMA and does not have to file to become a GSA. Indio Water Authority (IWA), Coachella Water Authority (CWA) and Imperial County also filed to be GSA's over portions of the Indio Subbasin. The Board authorized the General Manager to negotiate cooperative agreements with these agencies. CVWD meets monthly with DWA, IWA, and CWA and plans to equally share the cost of the Indio Subbasin Alternative GSP with these agencies. Therefore CVWD would be responsible for 25% of the cost of Task Order No. 5, the full amount of which is \$112,723.

CVWD's and Imperial County's proposed GSA boundaries over the Indio Subbasin currently overlap within a 2.5 square mile area of the subbasin that lies within Imperial County. The agencies are working to resolve the overlap either by revising CVWD's boundary to end at the Imperial County line or by having Imperial County withdraw its Notice of Intent to be a GSA over the Indio Subbasin. If Imperial County remains as a GSA for the Indio Subbasin within Imperial County, they could share the cost of Alternative GSP preparation, and each agency will be responsible for 20% of the cost, or they could fund the entire cost to prepare a separate GSP covering the small area within the Indio Subbasin that they wish to manage.

The MCGH WMP was prepared and adopted jointly by CVWD, DWA and Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) in accordance with the 2004 Settlement Agreement among the three agencies. Per the Settlement Agreement, CVWD meets Quarterly with DWA and MSWD, and the three agencies plan to equally share the cost of the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Plan. Therefore CVWD would be responsible for one-third (1/3) of the cost of Task Order No. 6, the full amount of which is \$91,867.

### **Purpose and Benefit of Project**

The purpose of this board item is to receive Board Authorization to prepare Alternative Groundwater Management Plans for the Indio and Mission Creek Subbasins in accordance with SGMA. Groundwater management plans are required for these two subbasins because DWR has designated them as medium priority subbasins. Completing the obligations of a GSA under SGMA supports CVWD's ongoing efforts to eliminate overdraft and ensure water supply sustainability.

### **Procurement and Expenditures**

Through a competitive proposal process, MWH was selected as one of CVWD's two Hydrogeological Consulting Firms, and a Biennial Services Contract was approved by the Board. Of the two firms, MWH is the most qualified to prepare the two Alternative GSP's. Based on the shared cost approach, CVWD is responsible for \$28,181, or 25%, of the cost of Task order No. 5. The total procurement amount for Task Order No. 5 is \$112,723. Similarly, CVWD is responsible for \$30,622, or one-third, of the cost of Task Order No. 6. The total procurement amount for Task Order No. 6 is \$91,867.

### **Environmental Impact**

- ☒ No, this item is not a "project" as defined by CEQA; therefore, approval does not require any CEQA action.
- ☐ Yes, see below.

### **Legal Review**

- ☒ Reviewed by Counsel
- ☐ N/A

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funds for completion of Task Order's No. 5 and 6 are included in the Environmental Services Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17

### **Prior Authorizations**

- ☐ Yes, see attachment.
- ☒ N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order No. 5 with MWH Americas, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$112,723, for preparation of the Indio Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

It is also recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve Task Order No. 6 with MWH Americas, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$91,867 for preparation of the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Prepared by: Patti Reyes  
Planning and Special Programs Manager

Submitted by: Steve Bigley  
Director, Environmental Services

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", written over a horizontal line.

J. M. Barrett  
General Manager

Attachments/as

FILE: 0644.105.3

PROJECT ID NO: N/A



# COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

*Established in 1918 as a public agency*

**PRESIDENT**

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**VICE PRESIDENT**

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Anthony Bianco, Division 2

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**CLERK OF THE BOARD**

Sylvia Bermudez

Best Best & Krieger LLP, Attorneys

## OFFICIAL MINUTE ORDER

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| <b>MEETING DATE:</b> JULY 26, 2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>ITEM NO.:</b> 10 F  |
| <b>MOTION:</b> NELSON                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>SECOND:</b> ESTRADA |
| <b>VOTE:</b> 5-0<br><b>AYES:</b> POWELL, NELSON, PACK, O'DOWD, ESTRADA<br><b>NOES:</b> NONE<br><b>ABSENT/ABSTAINED:</b> NONE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        |
| <b>APPROVED ACTION:</b><br><br>Authorized the General Manager to sign Task Order No. 5, in the amount not to exceed \$112,723 with MWH Americas for preparation of the Indio Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Task Order No. 6, in the amount not to exceed \$91,867 with MWH Americas for the preparation of the Mission Creek Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan |                        |

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order made and entered on the July 26, 2016, Board of Directors minutes.

Dated: December 28, 2016

(seal)



Sylvia M. Bermudez  
Clerk of the Board