

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES – OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
October 17, 2022**

The Operations & Maintenance Technical Committee of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Chris White in the Authority's Board Room, 842 6th Street in Los Banos.

**Committee Members Present**

**Exchange Contractors**

Chris White, Chair

**Friant Water Authority**

Chris Hickernell, Member - David Dees, Alternate

**Lower DMC Area**

Absent

**Mendota Pool Area**

Danny Wade, Member

**San Felipe Area**

Gary Nagaoka, Member (via Zoom)

**San Luis Canal Area**

Bill Pierce, Member

Kelly Vandergon, Alternate

**SLDMWA Technical Staff**

Bob Martin, Member - Jaime McNeil, Alternate

**Upper DMC**

Bobby Pierce, Member - Paul Stearns, Alternate

**USBR**

None

**SLDMWA Staff Members Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Cathy Bento, Accountant II  
Jim Lenhardt, Electrical Project Specialist  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director (via Zoom)  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer  
Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager  
Ray Tarka, Finance Director  
Dan Nunes, SCADA Engineer

**Others Present**

Juan Cadena, Panoche Water District (via Zoom)

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Committee Chair Chris White called the meeting to order and roll was called.

**2. Corrections or Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

Chris Hinkernell introduced David Dees as new alternate for Friant Water Authority.

**4. Committee to Consider Approval of October 18, 2021 O&M Technical Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Correction noted by Bill Pierce that he was present at last meeting.

Bobby Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Chris Hickernell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYE:	White, Hickernell, Wade, Nagaoka, Bill Pierce, Martin, Bobby Pierce
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**5. Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee Regarding the Proposed OM&R Budget, Including the Extraordinary, Capital**

## Improvement Projects (CIP), and Routine OM&R Budgets for FY24.

O&M Manager Chauncey Lee reviewed proposed changes to the OM&R budget. The proposed FY24 OM&R Budget of \$26,230,439 compared to the FY23 budget of \$28,530,154 is an overall decrease of 8.06%. Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin noted the format changes on the Budget Summary sheet (blue/yellow sheet) to add formula notes for easier future reference. Lee reviewed the 8.7% Consumer Price Index (CPI) placeholder, noting it is subject to change. Lee indicated that no new positions are proposed. Committee Chair Chris White noted that CPI salary adjustments are pursuant to a Board policy, and not determined in the O&M Technical Committee. Executive Director Federico Barajas noted it was added for full transparency, to make sure everyone is aware of what is included relevant to salary adjustments.

Lee then went over page 8 of the budget packet in detail, noting all changes that deviated by plus or minus 5%. The proposed FY24 Routine OM&R Budget increased by 5.5% or \$929.8K. Alternate Member Paul Stearns asked for clarification regarding increased engineering consultant costs for adjacent developments. Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil explained it is attributed to the upcoming reviews of five county bridges. Staff also answered questions regarding specific budget line items relating to cybersecurity and hardware costs, and committee members discussed developments along the DMC, and Lee reviewed proposed staffing numbers.

McNeil then reviewed proposed special projects with the committee. McNeil discussed the Jones Pumping Plant Distribution Board DZC Breakers Upgrade, and Fire Suppression System Service, Testing, and Maintenance. Alternate Member Stearns inquired if staff could become certified to complete the testing and maintenance. McNeil indicated staff would research the issue prior to issuing a purchase order.

Lee then reviewed various equipment justifications, and answered questions from committee members.

### Proposed FY24 EO&M Budget

McNeil then presented the proposed FY24 EO&M budget. McNeil reviewed the funding summary on page 36 of the packet and noted the creation of the SCADA Replacement & Modernization Program Reserve Project. McNeil also noted that labor has been added to the Reserve Projects to better represent staff time, and noted that two projects are for design only, with construction budgeted for the following year, to correct the issue of having to come back for supplemental funding.

Additional detail was presented regarding the following projects:

- ONP Cooling Water System Rehab Design:
  - McNeill noted that staff would reach out to private consultants prior to entering into an agreement with Reclamation. The committee discussed the large cost

estimate provided from Reclamation. Staff assured the committee it will be looked into further before embarking on a design agreement.

- JPP Excitation System & Control Modernization:
  - The committee discussed scope and timing of the work.
- OPP Main Transformer Rehabilitation – Supplemental Funding:
  - McNeill discussed the details of the supplemental funding, and the unsuccessful solicitation attempt. McNeill described the Request for Information that is being solicited to have more interest the next round. The proposed outage duration and timing was discussed (45 day from mid-April-May). Executive Director Federico Barajas explained the benefit of transformer rehabilitation, and goal of 10 years additional service from the transformers. Electrical Project Specialist Jim Lenhardt described the scope of the rehabilitation.
- O&M Road Maintenance Program – Phase 2 of 5:
  - McNeill discussed how the program is now completed every other year. Committee Member Chris Hickernell questioned how the subsidence correction project would affect the chipseal. McNeill stated that the chipseal has a 10-year lifespan and maintenance needs to be continued. If the subsidence project causes a realignment of the O&M road, it will need to be dealt with at that time.
- Bridge Abutment Repair at MP92.73 – Supplemental Funding:
  - McNeill noted that PG&E is currently onsite removing the gas line that is in the way of the project.
- Sand Filter System Rehabilitation Design:
  - McNeill explained that Reclamation's Technical Service Center (TSC) would design this project, but it will be investigated prior to entering into contract with TSC. Committee Member Bobby Pierce noted that the price seems very high for sand filters. Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin noted that the proposed price is what we have to go on right now.
- Plant Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation:
  - Committee Chair Chris White asked the timing for the tanks to be out, and McNeil estimated six weeks.

Staff then presented information regarding reserve projects/funds:

- SCADA Replacement & Modernization Program (Reserve Fund)
  - McNeill noted this is a new Reserve project, and the SCADA Engineer Dan Nunes will be presenting.

- Heavy Equipment Replacement Program (Reserve Fund):
  - Lenhardt presented detail regarding proposed purchases of a water truck and front-end loader. Lenhardt noted the small size of the loader, and there was discussion about how a backhoe would not be a good substitute.
- Vehicle Replacement (Reserve Fund):
  - Lenhardt presented the Program and the six planned purchases. Lenhardt noted lead times are very long, with previously funded vehicles on back order.
  - Lenhardt noted staff will try to purchase hybrids for several of the purchases.
- Facility Infrastructure Replacement/Rehabilitation Program (Reserve Fund):
  - TFO Kitchen Remodel
  - TFO Warehouse Flooring replacement
  - TFO Kitchen/Lunch Room Remodel
  - LBFO Wash Water Recycling System replacement
- Replace Computer/ Network Communication Equip (Reserve Fund):
  - IT Officer Stewart Davis reviewed the program, and mentioned the Cyber Security upgrades and mandates that will need to be complied with. He noted he added all multi-year agreements have been moved to the 10-year plan to benefit from discounts when signing multi-year contracts. Barajas noted that the President has sent letters to each governor indicating that cyber requirements for Federal facilities need to be up to code. Barajas has met with the Department of Interior, and staff is ensuring that the Authority is abiding by all requirements. Davis explained about the labor required to maintain security, and the multiple scam attempts that our firewall blocks. He also discussed software that can be used to monitor the network, and the AT&T cellular First Net program.

In total, the proposed FY24 EO&M and Reserve budget is \$6.4 million.

#### Proposed FY24 Capital Improvement Projects

Staff then presented information regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave noted that a BIL application for this project will be submitted. Discussion revolved about the funding sources. Executive Director Federico Barajas noted he is trying to minimize the local contribution at this early design state, and lean heavily on the DWR grant. Barajas explained in detail how the cost share works for the DWR grant. Staff identified the proposed budget for capital improvement projects of \$1.8 million, and the total for funds 25 (EO&M) and 26 (CIP) of \$8.2 million.

SCADA Engineer Dan Nunes walked through his SCADA Presentation. He noted the

testing this is occurring, and how radio is the preferred technology. Fiberoptics were questioned if that was possible, and Dan explained how a DWR fiber may be available for Reclamation use to communicate with OPP. Dan explained he hasn't gotten much engagement from DWR and they will continue testing and investigating all possible options to improve the SCADA system.

Committee Member Chris Hickernell motioned for the Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee Regarding the Proposed Routine OM&R Budget for FY24. Member Bobby Pierce seconded the motion.

AYE: White, Hickernell, Wade, Nagaoka, Bill Pierce, Martin, Bobby  
Pierce  
NOES: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

Committee Member Bill Pierce then motioned for the Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee Regarding the Proposed Extraordinary/CIP OM&R Budget for FY24. Member Bobby Pierce seconded the motion.

AYE: White, Hickernell, Wade, Nagaoka, Bill Pierce, Martin, Bobby  
Pierce  
NOES: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd noted that a formal recommendation requires 8 committee members, and only 7 members are present.

**6. Review Status of Current O&M Projects, including Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind.**

Electrical Project Specialist Jim Lenhardt reported on the status of the Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind. Lenhardt noted that four of the six units have been completed, with the fifth ready for final testing soon. Unit 3 will go down for rewind right after. Irons are being manufactured, and the rewind will start mid-January, and be completed in October 2023. Once completed, the units will be disassembled one by one for warranty inspections, starting with Unit 6. Alternate Member Paul Stearns questioned if there have been any alignment issues encountered, and Lenhardt confirmed there has not been. Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin mentioned installation of the rotor was the smoothest installation yet.

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill then reviewed the status of FY23 OM&R projects:

- OPP Pump Bowl Replacement – (Design & VE Study): Project on hold, due to value planning study. Reclamation has recommended that three assessments be completed first before embarking on EO&M projects related to the OPP units, including a comprehensive review of the Plant Operation-System, a motor/generator condition assessment, and a mechanical assessment. The proposed FY24 projects have been adjusted according to this.

Barajas explained the assessment and our intention of looking at the all the needs for the plant and the best way to tackle them.

- OPP Station Service Backup Battery System Replacement – Preliminary work has been completed, and additional work is planned during the main transformer rehab site work. Material will be on hand at the time.
- DMC Subsidence Correctly Project – Details were described earlier.
- OPP Main Transformer Rehab – Phase 3 of 3 – Details were described earlier.
- Concrete Slab by Trashrake Dumpster – Project is ongoing and in the planning and design phase. The work will likely be completed in two phases to minimize disruptions.
- HVAC System Rehab/ Replacement – Project has been on hold, waiting for Reclamation’s contract to be completed.
- DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade – Phase 3 of 3 – Project is ongoing. Operations staff is assembling the list of meters to be purchased.
- OPP Accusonics Flowmeter Console Upgrades – Consoles have been purchased, and installation is underway.
- SCADA System Evaluation – Details were described earlier.

#### Deferred EO&M Project Updates

- FY20 JPP Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement – Project anticipated to be completed by next summer.
- FY22 JPP Purchase Wear Rings for Pumps: Project is currently on hold, with no mechanical engineer on staff.
- FY OPP UPS Battery Charging System Replacement: Project to be completed concurrently with the OPP Station Service Battery project

Staff noted that the 10-year plan review is the last remaining item for Item 6. Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin reviewed the 10 Year Plan on page 37 of the packet in detail. Once complete, Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave noted that the EO&M program is in the expansion phase. 6-7 years ago, it was very low cost, and it will only continue to grow. Efforts are being made to closely tie the appropriate labor the projects. Committee Member Bobby Pierce asked what the 10-year average is, as it usually was about \$1M. The average now is much higher than \$1.5M. Martin noted the facilities are 50-60 years old, and require extra TLC. Martin also pointed out that costs in the out years are placeholders and only a best guess. Having a design phase for future projects will be to develop more accurate cost estimates.

Committee Member Bobby Pierce asked about the status of the Preventative Maintenance Service Orders (PMs) on the routine side. Martin indicated that the status could be reviewed this

time next year.

Committee Member Chris Hickernell asked about the OPP Trashracks. Martin noted they are down the list on the 10-year plan. They should be included in the assessments to determine where they will be placed. Committee Member Bobby Pierce mentioned the gantry cranes at OPP and JPP. Martin noted the plan is to have both cranes rehabilitated prior to any major work.

**7. Review of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Aging Infrastructure Projects Funding Application Process and Proposed Projects Staff Recommends Including in Application**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave presented information regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and noted it was the same presentation that was given to the Board of Directors. He stressed that Reclamation is identifying transferred works to receive funding. There will be an informational session on October 21, and the application closes December 1. Transferred works entities need to have adopted resolutions at that time. \$649M is authorized through a competitive process and that is expected to continue for several years. Arroyave stressed that Reclamation has details to work through as it relates to transferred works. He noted the internal criteria drafted by staff to help identify projects to include in applications; single year project greater than \$1.5M or multiyear project greater than \$1.0M.

Arroyave then turned the presentation to Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin. Martin noted that first round of applications will include the JPP Excitation and DMC Subsidence projects. The second round will focus on OPP Units, with Pump Bowl, rewind, and Unit Protection Modernization. The third round will focus on JPP Station Service Protection and OPP Main Transformer Replacement projects. Martin noted the design of JPP Excitation is at 60% with 90% design scheduled to be completed in December, with 100% scheduled for February. Martin went through the detailed scope of work for the JPP Excitation and Control Board Modernization Project.

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill then reviewed details of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and the O'Neill Pumping Plant Upgrades. It was noted that Reclamation and the Authority have accepted that the units are at the end of their life.

Arroyave noted next steps would be a negotiation with Reclamation, as these are not grants. They will need to be repaid.

**8. Review Action Items from Meeting**

Martin to develop PM report to present at the next committee meeting.

**9. Confirm Date, Time, and Location for Next Meeting**

Schedule of meeting not confirmed.

**10. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Sec 54954.2 (a)(3)**

No reports given.



## 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.