

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
March 10, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held via video conference, Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Kristina D. Mena, Chair
Dr. Ivonne Santiago, Vice Chair
Terri Garcia, Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor Oscar Leeser, Ex-Officio Member
Christopher A. Antcliff, Member
Charlie Intebi, Member
Bryan Morris, Member

PSB MEMBERS ABSENT

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT

John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Alan Shubert, Vice President
Marcela Navarrete, Vice President
Art Duran, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Alfredo Solano, Chief Information Officer
Zulema Jamis, Interim Executive Assistant
Claudia Duran, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Gilbert Trejo, Chief Technical Officer
Israel Chavez, Senior Network Administrator
Diana Velazquez, Utility Purchasing & Contract Manager
Edgar Campos, Utility Information Systems Manager
Alma De Anda, Utility Land & Water Rights Manager
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel
Michaela Grambling, Assistant General Counsel
Alejandro Vidales Jr., Real Estate Manager
Angel Bustamante, Water Systems Division Manager
Jeff Tepsick, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Gisela Dagnino, Engineering Division Manager
Hector Gonzalez, Government Affairs Manager
Leticia Augsberger, Utility Security and Emergency Response Coordinator
Ivan Ibarra, Fleet & Building Maintenance Superintendent
Luz Holguin, Utility Treasury and Property Control Manager

GUESTS

MEDIA

None

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Dr. Mena at 9:30 a.m. A quorum of its members was

present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Terri Garcia, in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Chris Antcliff, seconded by Mayor Oscar Leeser and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following agenda items:

1. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2021

The Board approved the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on February 10, 2021.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PRESENTATION TO TERRI GARCIA IN RECOGNITION OF HER LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION, AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY DURING HER TENURE ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

Mr. John Balliew, President and CEO, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). Mr. Balliew presented a plaque to Ms. Terri Garcia for her hard work and dedication over the eight years on the Public Service Board, including serving as Treasurer and Secretary.

Ms. Garcia spoke about her appreciation for serving on the Board and reflected on the meaningful work that is done through the PSB. Dr. Mena, Mayor Leeser, Chris Antcliff, Bryan Morris and Charlie Intebi also spoke in recognition and appreciation for Ms. Garcia's service, expertise and friendship on the Board.

3. CONSIDERED THE FEBRUARY 2010 MOU BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND EL PASO WATER, REGARDING AIRPORT WELLS, AND DIRECTED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO SECURE THE AIRPORT'S AGREEMENT ON REASONABLE NOTICE, TIMING, AND COST ALLOCATION OF WELL AND SERVICE LINE RELOCATIONS IN THE EVENT OF UNREASONABLE NOTICE, OR ELSE TERMINATE THE MOU DUE TO THE RISK OF IMPACTING WATER SUSTAINABILITY DURING SIGNIFICANT EXISTING DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

Mr. John Balliew, President and CEO, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). El Paso International Airport (EPIA) provided notice to El Paso Water (EPWater) that relocation of Well 94 was needed to accommodate the Marmaxx Development in December of 2019. EPWater completed the drilling of replacement Well 94A in October 2020 and will complete infrastructure (piping, new electrical service, well pump and motor) by July 2021. EPWater received late notice from EPIA on January 25, 2021 that Well 99 also needed to be relocated to accommodate the same Marmaxx Development. The Airport indicated that the existence of Well 99 was unknown because it was not "conducive to visual detection" since the well vault was underground and "not discernable with (the Airport's) electronic records". Well 99 has above ground components that are visible and the Airport has had a record of Well 99's location since at least 2010. Well 99 is an active and important producing well in the Airport Wellfield, consistently producing 900 gallons per minute. EPIA's request comes as EPWater is preparing for river drought this summer by relying on groundwater to meet peak demands. EPIA is requesting that EPWater relocate Well 99 under an accelerated basis under the 2010 MOU. The MOU with the Airport states, "any costs to relocate wells or service lines will be borne by EPWU alone". The MOU does not provide detail on how quickly that will be carried out or how to avoid delaying EPWater's planned projects or impacting water management. EPWater needs a minimum of 1- year advanced notice on well relocation from EPIA to avoid this situation in the future. Mr. Balliew, addressed questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Antcliff seconded by Terry Garcia and unanimously carried, the Board considered the February 2010 MOU between the Airport and El Paso Water, regarding Airport wells, and directed the President/CEO to secure the Airport's agreement on reasonable notice, timing, and cost allocation of well and service line relocations in the event of unreasonable notice, or else terminate the MOU due to the risk of impacting water sustainability during significant existing drought conditions.

4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT ("FIRST AMENDMENT") WITH PROACTION INC., TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES, AMENDED THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS BEGINNING ON MAY 1, 2021, FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$350,000, WITH AN OPTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$350,000; AND THAT THE PROCUREMENT UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(2) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, A PROCUREMENT NECESSARY TO PRESERVE OR PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S RESIDENTS.

Mr. John Balliew, President and CEO, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). Per the agreement awarded to ProAction Inc., on July 2020 and set to expire on April 30, 2021, EPWater is in compliance with the First Amendment to Local Emergency Directive dated April 1, 2020.

ProAction Inc., has continued to supply medical professionals and equipment to conduct health screenings such as temperature screenings at multiple EPWater sites; provide rapid response Antibody Testing for EPWater personnel, COVID19 nasal swab testing and vaccine administration for Influenza virus and SARS-COV02. Services include: creation of appointment database; consent forms; administrative personnel, medical technicians collecting blood specimens; laboratory; communicating with EPWater personnel on results of antibody testing and COVID19 testing and vaccine administration. Mr. Balliew, addressed questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Mr. Antcliff, and unanimously carried, the Board approved a First Amendment to Consulting Services Agreement ("First Amendment") with ProAction Inc., to include additional services, amended the term of the Agreement for an additional six months beginning on May 1, 2021, for an estimated amount of \$350,000, with an option for an additional six months for an estimated amount of \$350,000; and that the procurement under the Agreement and the First Amendment is pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(2) of the Texas Local Government Code, a procurement necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the municipality's residents.

5. CONSIDERED AND REAFFIRMED A 2016 RESOLUTION THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT – AN AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT UNDER THE 1906 ANTIQUITIES ACT - IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE AREA'S NATURAL STATE AND TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL STORMWATER RUNOFF FROM THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS AS EXPRESSED IN THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES' STORMWATER MASTER PLAN.

Mr. John Balliew, President/CEO, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). In 2016, there was a community effort to make Castner Range a National Monument. The Frontera Land Alliance, Franklin Mountains Wilderness and El Paso Community Foundation have been leaders in this effort. Castner Range has ancient rock imagery sites, ancient cultural deposits and historic military sites that are located on the 7000-acre Castner Range at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. The PSB passed a resolution of support as did City Council and County Commissioners. The effort was unsuccessful at the time but has been revived with the change in Administrations. Mr. Balliew addressed questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Mr. Antcliff and unanimously carried, the Board reaffirmed a 2016 resolution that the Public Service Board supports the establishment of the historic Castner Range National Monument – an authority granted to the U.S. President under the 1906 Antiquities Act - in order to

preserve the area's natural state and to effectively control stormwater runoff from the Franklin Mountains as expressed in the El Paso Water Utilities' Stormwater Master Plan.

6. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE SOLE SOURCE MASTER CONTRACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR ENUESTA SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL WITH SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$503,916.71.

Mr. Alfredo Solano, Chief Information Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Abriox is the sole source supplier of the remote cathodic protection (CP) monitoring system currently installed at 53 of our steel water storage tanks. The Abriox proprietary system consists of wireless communication with CP monitors in the field to upload data to a central server operated by Abriox. The system proactively identifies potential corrosion problems when they occur and immediately alerts operators. This Abriox data is available 24/7 online to staff to manage, trend, and schedule maintenance of the CP system. The existing 2G Abriox units were installed in 2012 and must be replaced with new 4G/LTE units to continue remote cathodic protection monitoring. Mr. Solano addressed questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Ms. Garcia and unanimously carried, the Board approved a sole source master contract to Systems & Software agreement for enQuesta software maintenance renewal in the estimated amount of \$503,916.71.

7. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED BID NUMBER 07-21 SALE OF SURPLUS BRASS, COPPER, STEEL AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSORTED SCRAP, TO THE HIGHEST RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER BORDER TRADING INC., WITH ESTIMATED ANNUAL PROCEEDS OF \$219,121.87 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM WITH THE OPTION FOR TWO, ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS.

Ms. Diana Velazquez, Utility Purchasing and Contract Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) This bid is for the sale of surplus metal scrap including brass from used water meters, copper wire and miscellaneous steel items. Ms. Velazquez answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Antcliff, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board awarded Bid Number 07-21 Sale of Surplus Brass, Copper, Steel and Miscellaneous Assorted Scrap, to the highest responsive, responsible bidder Border Trading Inc., with estimated annual proceeds of \$219,121.87 for a one-year term with the option for two, one-year extensions.

8. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF TWO VACUUM JET RODDER TRUCKS FROM FREIGHTLINER OF AUSTIN USING THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC. CONTRACT NUMBER 601-19 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$898,706.

Ms. Diana Velazquez, Utility Purchasing and Contract Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) These Combination Vacuum Jet Rodder Trucks are used to maintain the sewer collection and the stormwater systems throughout the City. Ms. Velazquez answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Antcliff, seconded by Mayor Leeser and unanimously carried, the Board approved the purchase of two Vacuum Jet Rodder Trucks from Freightliner of Austin using the Texas Association of School Boards, Inc. Contract Number 601-19 for a total amount of \$898,706.

9. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THREE TURBLEX AERATION BLOWERS AND APPURTENANCES FOR THE JOHN T. HICKERSON WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY REHABILITATION PROJECT FROM HOWDEN ROOTS.

LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,377,815; AUTHORIZED AN ALLOWANCE OF \$101,595 OVER A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT TO BE PAID ANNUALLY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,319; CONTINGENT UPON HOWDEN ROOTS, LLC PROVIDING YEARLY DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.

Mr. Gilbert Trejo, Chief Technical Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The original aeration blowers are now 37 years old. Replacement parts are difficult to find and/or are obsolete. As part of the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility Rehabilitation Project, currently under construction, the blowers for the aeration basins and channel will be removed and replaced. A total of three new blowers will be installed to replace the obsolete blowers. EPWater has standardized on Howden blowers across all four wastewater treatment plants. This equipment will be purchased by EPWater and provided to the contractor to assist with the schedule and the long production time associated with manufacturing of this equipment. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board approved the sole source purchase pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(7)(A) of the Texas Local Government Code of Three Turblex Aeration Blowers and Appurtenances for the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility Rehabilitation Project from Howden Roots, LLC. in the amount of \$1,377,815; authorized an allowance of \$101,595 over a term of five years for service and maintenance agreement to be paid annually in the amount of \$20,319; contingent upon Howden Roots, LLC providing yearly documentation attesting to their sole source status.

10. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE HASKELL R. STREET WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG) RECEIVING STATION IMPROVEMENTS TO ARCADIS U.S., INC. FOR DESIGN AND BID PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,741.30; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR DESIGN, BID, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$300,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Gilbert Trejo, Chief Technical Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Haskell R. Street Wastewater Treatment Plant is the oldest wastewater facility in El Paso. It started operation in 1923, serving the central area of the City. The plant has four anaerobic digesters and a cogeneration system that is available to use digester gas to generate electricity and heat for the plant. Two years ago, EPWater staff conducted a pilot study to enhance the production of digester gas using fats, oils, and grease (FOG). A technical memorandum for the pilot project was submitted to TCEQ and an approval was received to proceed with the proposed project. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Ms. Garcia and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a Professional Engineering Services Contract for the Haskell R. Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Receiving Station Improvements to Arcadis U.S., Inc. for design and bid phase services in the amount of \$285,741.30; authorized future task orders or amendments to be issued under this contract for design, bid, and construction phase services in an estimated amount of \$300,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the task orders or amendments.

11. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE FRONTERA LIFT STATION FORCE MAIN REHABILITATION TO JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, INC. FOR PRE-DESIGN AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$139,054.18; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR DESIGN, BID, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Frontera Lift Station force mains are critical to the operation of the wastewater collection system as they convey flow from the entire Westside, 3.5 miles, to the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility. The Frontera Lift Station pumps a total of 10 million gallons of wastewater per day through two force mains with pipe diameters ranging from 30, 36, and 42-inches. In October 2016, the Public Service Board (PSB) approved a professional services contract agreement with CH2M Hill (acquired by Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.) for the assessment, design, and bid phase services of the Frontera Force Mains. The force main assessment was completed in 2019. On March 2, 2020, the 30-inch and 42-inch pressurized wastewater mains failed. On March 11, 2020, the PSB authorized EPWater to enter into emergency contracts to design and replace the portion of the force mains at high risk of failure. This work has been designed and is in construction. This professional agreement is for an alignment study, design, and provide construction phase services for the remaining portion of the force mains, approximately 2.5 miles from the end of the emergency work to the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Professional Engineering Services Contract for the Frontera Lift Station Force Main Rehabilitation to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for pre-design and preliminary design phase services in the amount of \$139,054.18; authorized future task orders or amendments to be issued under this contract for design, bid, and construction phase services in an estimated amount of \$2,000,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the task orders or amendments.

12. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE JOHN T. HICKERSON WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY REHABILITATION - HEADWORKS AND ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION - PART 2 PROJECT TO PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER, INC. FOR DESIGN PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$769,973; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS FOR DESIGN, BID, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility (JTHWRF) was constructed in 1984 and expanded in 1993. The first treatment process at a wastewater treatment plant, known as the headworks, consists of mechanical screens to filter out large debris, a grit chamber to remove small particles, a flow distribution box, a flow meter, and odor treatment system. All these structures need rehabilitation and equipment replaced. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Antcliff, seconded by Ms. Garcia and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Professional Engineering Services Contract for the John T. Hickerson Water Reclamation Facility Rehabilitation - Headworks and Ultraviolet Disinfection - Part 2 project to Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. for design phase services in the amount of \$769,973; authorized future task orders or amendments for design, bid, and construction phase services in the estimated amount of \$1,000,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the task orders or amendments.

13. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ROSEMONT 1.5 MG GROUND STORAGE WATER TANK - PART 2 TO MORENO CARDENAS, INC. FOR DESIGN AND BID PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$297,603.27; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS FOR DESIGN, BID, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$500,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) This project will construct a new ground storage water tank to serve the Rosemont Mountain Park 1 pressure zone. The new tank will add storage capacity redundancy to this pressure zone. The proposed tank will be located adjacent to the existing Rosemont 1 MG ground storage water tank. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Professional Engineering Services Contract for Rosemont 1.5 MG Ground Storage Water Tank - Part 2 to Moreno Cardenas, Inc. for design and bid phase services in the amount of \$297,603.27; authorized future task orders or amendments for design, bid, and construction phase services in the estimated amount of \$500,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the task orders or amendments.

14. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE CANUTILLO/UPPER VALLEY WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN PHASE IV – PART 2 PROJECT TO PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER, INC., FOR DESIGN AND BID PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$340,573; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$750,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS. Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) This project is part of an existing system of large diameter transmission pipelines that deliver water from the Canutillo Well Field and the Upper Valley Water Treatment Plant in Vinton to storage tanks across northwest El Paso. Phase IV will consist of a 36-inch transmission pipeline extending from the end of Phase I at Thorn Avenue and Marietta Street to the Fred Miller Storage site. This fourth phase is needed to ensure water distribution and pressure to the farthest reaches of the service area. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Professional Engineering Services Contract for the Canutillo/Upper Valley Water Transmission Main Phase IV – Part 2 project to Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc., for design and bid phase services in the amount of \$340,573; authorized future task orders or amendments to be issued under this contract for additional design and construction phase services in an estimated amount of \$750,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the task orders or amendments.

15. CONSIDERED AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO ENTER INTO THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE DIGESTER COVERS AT HASKELL R. STREET AND ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS: 1) A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE MOST QUALIFIED FIRM, PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER, INC., IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$110,000; PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 2254 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE; AND 2) A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH R.M. WRIGHT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$1,603,000, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(2) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, PROCUREMENT NECESSARY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S RESIDENTS AND SECTION 252.022(A)(3) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, PROCUREMENT NECESSARY BECAUSE OF UNFORESEEN DAMAGE TO PUBLIC MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER PROPERTY; AUTHORIZE THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) In July 2019, the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) experienced a failure of the floating cover for Digester Number 1, rendering the unit inoperable. Staff determined the failed digester cover needed to be replaced

immediately as it was critical to the treatment process of the plant for capacity and redundancy purposes. In August 2019, the Public Service Board (PSB) approved an emergency construction contract to R. M. Wright Construction Company for urgent public necessity of repairs to the Fred Hervey WRP Digester Number 1. At the same meeting, the PSB approved a professional engineering services contract to Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc. to complete an assessment of the failure at Fred Hervey and assess the digesters at the Haskell and Bustamante plants for similar vulnerabilities. The vulnerability discovered was associated with a pressure and vacuum relief (PRV/VAC) valve that is installed on the digester cover. The valve is responsible with releasing the pressure from built-up methane gas from inside the digester. At the Fred Hervey WRP the digester cover collapsed due to this PRV/VAC valve. Since then, the contractor has installed a new three-way valve at the Fred Hervey digesters to replace the one-way valve. The one-way valves remain installed on the digesters at Haskell and Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs). Staff is requesting to replace these valves to prevent a potential collapse as work of urgent public necessity in order to protect the public health and safety of the municipality and necessary to prevent unforeseen damage to the public machinery and equipment. Staff is recommending utilizing the same contractor, R. M. Wright Construction Company, and engineering consultant, Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc., that completed the emergency work; design and oversight, respectively, at Fred Hervey because they have the experience and resources on hand to safely replace the existing one-way valves on the digesters at the Haskell and Bustamante WWTPs. There are three digesters at Haskell and three digesters at Bustamante that need to have the PRV/VAC valves replaced on the existing covers. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the President/CEO to enter into the following contracts related to the Emergency Repairs to the Digester Covers at Haskell R. Street and Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plants: 1) a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with the most qualified firm, Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, Inc., in an estimated amount of \$110,000; pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 2254 of the Government Code; and 2) a construction contract with R.M. Wright Construction Company in an estimated amount of \$1,603,000, pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(2) of the Texas Local Government Code, procurement necessary to preserve and protect the public health or safety of the municipality's residents and Section 252.022(a)(3) of the Texas Local Government Code, procurement necessary because of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment, or other property; authorize the use of Commercial Paper.

16. CONSIDERED AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (FRM) FEASIBILITY STUDY ("AGREEMENT"), WITH AN ESTIMATED EPWATER CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,500,000 OVER 3 YEARS, WHICH IS 50% OF THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZED FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDY SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$375,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR AMENDMENTS.

Mr. Trejo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) A series of dams in central El Paso protect residential and commercial areas including IH-10 and important water and power distribution facilities. A comprehensive structural and hydraulic assessment of the dams is needed to determine the required capacity of the drainage system as well as identify any deficiencies. When completed, the study will provide a better understanding of the improvements required to detain significant storm events and provide better flood mitigation for central El Paso. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the President/CEO to enter into an Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the City of El Paso Flood Risk Management (FRM) Feasibility Study ("Agreement"), with an estimated EPWater contribution of \$1,500,000 over 3 years, which is 50% of the Project; authorized future amendments to the Agreement for additional feasibility study services in an estimated amount not to exceed \$375,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for amendments.

17. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

•PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON MASTER CONTRACTS

Mr. Alan Shubert, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services, requested that the item be deleted from the Management Report.

On a motion made by Mr. Antcliff, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board removed the item from the Management Report.

•PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS (IGSA) WITH FORT BLISS

Mr. Hector Gonzalez, Government Affairs Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Intergovernmental Services Agreements are a new tool to lower base operating costs, produce revenue for local government and support economic development. The sole-source agreements include the “installation support services,” which include goods, services, projects, infrastructure and utilities, local wage rates and 10-year term with no limitations on renewals. Intergovernmental support agreements include the IGSA update on Engineering/Water Quality Testing and Resource Planning, Stormwater and KBH Expansion, meeting between Garrison Commander and EPWater President, and other Fort Bliss Resiliency Projects such as the direct water line to Fort Bliss/McGregor Range Infrastructure.

•PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON 50- YEAR WATER PLAN SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE BY TWDB

Mr. John Balliew, President and CEO, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Plan has been in place since 1991. EPWater has been producing 50-Year Water Plans to make sure there is sufficient water resources to meet the needs of the community. The current process of water planning was enacted by the Texas legislature in 1997. The legislation created 16 water planning areas. El Paso is part of the Far West Texas Planning Group (or Region E.) Every 5 years, every water utility, county and all 16 regions conduct planning exercises that evaluate current and future populations and water demands and available supplies to update their 5-year plans. EPWater submitted its updated 50-Year plan (as part of the Region E Plan) in 2021, and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved the plan.

•PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Ms. Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater through the CARES Act was able to assist 1,901 in the year 2020 for a total of \$473,817. Through the EPWater employee fundraiser, EPWater was able to assist 10 customers in 2021 for a total of \$3,700. Through the CARES Act-Amistad, EPWater assisted 417 customers in the year 2020 for a total of \$147,063 and in the year 2021, 656 customers for a total of \$382,771. Through the CARES Act – Project Bravo, 248 customers were assisted in the year 2020 for a total of \$61,476, 240 in the year 2021 for a total of \$48,632 and an additional commitment to 363 customers in the year 2021 for a total of \$74,731. The total customers assisted to date 3,835 for a total of \$1,192,190.

18. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

There were no comments from the public.

On a motion made by Mayor Leaser, seconded by Mr. Morris, and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session at 10:52 a.m., February 10, 2021, pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through 551.076 to discuss the following:

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney
Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property
Section 551.074 Personnel Matters

a. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorneys

Consultation with its attorneys regarding stormwater and land issues at 9525 Escobar Dr. in El Paso, TX (Mesilla Valley Transportation).

On a motion made by Mayor Leaser, seconded by Mr. Antcliff and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 12:03 p.m., March 10, 2021.

CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

No Action

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Ms. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m., March 10, 2021.

ATTEST:



Kristina Mena-Chair



Secretary-Treasurer