

MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
March 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Kristina D. Mena, Chair
Stefanie Block Uribarri, Member
Dr. Ivonne Santiago, Vice Chair
Lisa Saenz, Member
Mayor Oscar Leeser

PSB MEMBERS ABSENT

Charlie Intebi, Member
Bryan Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT

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

EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Marcela Navarrete, Vice President
Paul Rivas, Interim Vice President
Art Duran, Chief Financial Officer
Claudia Duran, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel
Gilbert Trejo, Interim Chief Operations Officer
Irazema Rojas, Interim Chief Technical Officer
Christina Montoya, Marketing and Communications Manager
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications & Government Affairs Officer
Geoffrey Espineli, Engineering Division Manager
Felipe Lopez, Chief Operations Officer
Martin Noriega, Chief Operations Officer
Rose Guevara, Interim Purchasing and Contract Manager
Alma de Anda, Land & Water Rights Manager
Lidia Carranco, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Ruben Rodriguez, Water Supply Manager
Eric Lugo, Computer Programmer
Amanda Blake, Computer Operator
Robert Davidson, Contract Construction Administrator
Gretchen Byram, Computer Media Specialist
Adriana Castillo, Engineering Division Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Engineering Division Manager
Ivan Ibarra, Fleet & Building Maintenance Superintendent
Laura Foster, Chief Architect
Aide Zamarron, Wastewater Treatment Manager
Anai Padilla, TechH2O Manager
Mark Bolduc, Business & Customer Service Manager
Denise Parra, Public Affairs Officer
Alfredo Solano, Chief Technical Officer
Enrique Ochoa, Engineering Division Manager

GUESTS

Maria Fernanda Urbina, Director- Hilltop Securities
Laura Prine, City of El Paso Clerk
Paul Braden, Bond Counsel- Norton Rose Fullbright US

MEDIA

Danielle Prokop, El Paso Matters

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Dr. Mena at 8:02 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Dr. Mena in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Lisa Saenz was appointed Secretary/Treasurer in Mr. Bryan Morris' absence.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. ADMINISTERED OATH TO STEFANIE BLOCK URIBARRI, NEW BOARD MEMBER.

Ms. Laura Prine, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to new PSB member, Ms. Stefanie Block Uribbarri.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a single motion made by Mayor Leeser seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items:

2. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2022.

3. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE INSERTION OF THE 2005 EASTSIDE ANNEXATION FEES TABLE IN RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 5 SECTION I (K) EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023, WHICH REFLECTS THE RATES APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD ON JANUARY 12, 2022.

4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN CAPACITY OF THE MASTER CONTRACT ID MC0000062 ISSUED TO WEST TEXAS INDUSTRIAL, CONTRACTORS, LLC., FOR PIPES, METALS AND RELATED MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES THROUGH ESC REGION 19 COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 21-7393 FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,500,000, TO INCREASE THE MASTER CONTRACT CUMULATIVE AMOUNT TO \$2,500,000.

5. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN CAPACITY OF MASTER CONTRACT MCFOURRIVERS21 ISSUED TO 4RIVERS EQUIPMENT, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT THROUGH SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NUMBER 032119-JDC FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$800,000 TO INCREASE THE MASTER CONTRACT CUMULATIVE AMOUNT TO \$1,300,000.

6. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT FOR UTILITY VEHICLES TO RUDOLPH CHEVROLET, LLC THROUGH ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NUMBER 20-7355 IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,700,000 DURING THE TERM OF ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NUMBER 20-7355, WHICH HAS AN END DATE OF NOVEMBER 30, 2022, WITH TWO ONE-YEAR OPTIONS, SHOULD ESC REGION 19 EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND.

7. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SUBSURFACE UTILITY ENGINEERING - RFQ 68-21 TO COBB, FENDLEY AND ASSOCIATES, INC., FRANK X. SPENCER AND ASSOCIATES, INC., AND H2O TERRA, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000 FOR EACH FIRM WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

8. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE PICO NORTE ELEVATED STORAGE TANK AND 24-INCH SUPPLY LINE – PART 2 PROJECT, WITH MORENO CARDENAS, INC. FOR THE ADDITIONAL DESIGN PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,500; AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR

AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$700,000 PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

9. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE NORTHEAST DYER/RAILROAD INTERCEPTORS – PART 2 TO CEA ENGINEERING GROUP, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$361,849.35; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$650,000 PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

10. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE DONIPHAN COLLECTOR TO CANUTILLO BOSQUE LIFT STATION PROJECT TO PARKHILL, SMITH & COOPER, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$342,219; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$250,000 PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

11. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT AWARDED TO CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC., FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY – PART 2 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,469,063.67; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL 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, AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

12. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT AWARDED TO GARVER, LLC FOR THE HASKELL R. STREET WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT GRIT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR DESIGN PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,336,398.51; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$750,000 PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

13. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE LIFT STATION REHABILITATION OF MONTOYA II, CAROLINA, SUNRISE, AND NAVARRETE– PART 2 PROJECT TO CEA ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$229,072.83.

REGULAR AGENDA

14. APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

(1) ARCHITECT/ENGINEER SELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: IVONNE SANTIAGO, BRYAN MORRIS, CHARLIE INTEBI

(2) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: STEFANIE BLOCK URIBARRI, KRISTINA MENA,

IVONNE SANTIAGO

(3) AUDIT, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: STEFANIE BLOCK URIBARRI, KRISTINA MENA, LISA SAENZ

(4) DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: IVONNE SANTIAGO, BRYAN MORRIS, KRISTINA MENA

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Dr. Santiago, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Appointment of Board members to the following committees:

- (1) Architect/Engineer Selection Advisory Committee: Ivonne Santiago, Bryan Morris, Charlie Intebi
- (2) Communications Committee: Stefanie Block Uribarri, Kristina Mena, Ivonne Santiago
- (3) Audit, Finance and Investment Committee: Stefanie Block Uribarri, Kristina Mena, Lisa Saenz
- (4) Development Committee: Ivonne Santiago, Bryan Morris, Kristina Mena

15. APPROVED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,490,000 OF CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2022 AND THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) FORM RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO OR DESIGNEE OF EL PASO WATER UTILITIES TO SIGN A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS WITH THE TWDB IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,110,000 THROUGH THE FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROGRAM OF THE TWDB TO FINANCE THE WILL RUTH POND AND CONVEYANCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Ms. Maria Urbina, Hilltop Securities Managing Director, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Public Service Board (Board), acting on behalf of the City, filed an application seeking financial assistance in the amount of \$14,600,000 from the Flood Infrastructure Fund program of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to finance the Will Ruth Pond and Conveyance Improvement project. On February 2, 2022, the TWDB adopted a resolution approving a \$14,600,000 commitment to the Board, acting on behalf of the City, for financial assistance in the form of the proposed purchase of \$9,490,000 of City of El Paso, Texas, Municipal Drainage Utility System Revenue Bonds, Series 2022, and a grant of \$5,110,000. Ms. Urbina answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Ms. Saenz, with Mayor Leeser abstaining, the Board approved a resolution requesting City Council to authorize the issuance of \$9,490,000 of City of El Paso, Texas, Municipal Drainage Utility System Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Form Resolution; authorized the President/CEO or designee of El Paso Water Utilities to sign a grant agreement, and all related documents with the TWDB in the amount of \$5,110,000 through the Flood Infrastructure Fund program of the TWDB to finance the Will Ruth Pond and Conveyance Improvement project.

16. ADOPTED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$356,325,000 OF CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, WATER AND SEWER REVENUE IMPROVEMENT AND REFUNDING BONDS SERIES 2022 TO PAY OFF \$80,000,000 IN COMMERCIAL PAPER NOTES TO FUND APPROXIMATELY \$273,006,000 OF CIP PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23, AND TO FUND INTEREST AND RELATED TRANSACTION COSTS, PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN PRICING PARAMETERS, AS SET FORTH IN THE CITY'S BOND ORDINANCE, ARE MET.

Ms. Maria Urbina, Hilltop Securities Managing Director, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater currently has a Revolving Credit Agreement with Bank of America N.A. for the Water and Sewer Commercial Paper Notes Program in the amount of \$80,000,000. The Commercial Paper Program is a short-term variable rate financing tool utilized by the Utility to finance a portion of its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Series 2022 bonds will pay off \$80,000,000 of Commercial Paper Notes. In addition, the Utility is requesting to issue the Series 2022 bonds to fund approximately \$273,006,000 of CIP projects approved for Fiscal Year 2022-23, plus bond issuance costs. Ms. Urbina answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Ms. Saenz, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted a resolution requesting City Council to authorize the issuance of up to \$356,325,000 of City of El Paso, Texas, Water

and Sewer Revenue Improvement and Refunding Bonds Series 2022 to pay off \$80,000,000 in Commercial Paper Notes to fund approximately \$273,006,000 of CIP projects approved for Fiscal Year 2022-23, and to fund interest and related transaction costs, provided that certain pricing parameters, as set forth in the City's bond ordinance, are met.

17. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED BID NUMBER 31-22, NORTHEAST DYER/RAILROAD 18-INCH AND 36-INCH SANITARY SEWER INTERCEPTORS AND 16-INCH WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1, TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, CMD ENDEAVORS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,931,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

Ivan Hernandez, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). The Northeast Dyer/Railroad 18-Inch and 36-Inch Sanitary Sewer Interceptors and 16-Inch Water Main Improvements Phase 1 project consists of the installation of two sanitary sewer interceptors and a potable water main along Dyer Street (US 54) and extends from Mesquite Flor Dr. to Railroad Dr., along Carlos Ramirez Dr. This project will accommodate growth in Northeast El Paso. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leaser, seconded by Dr. Santiago, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded Bid Number 31-22, Northeast Dyer/Railroad 18-Inch and 36-Inch Sanitary Sewer Interceptors and 16-Inch Water Main Improvements Phase 1, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, CMD Endeavors, Inc., in the amount of \$6,931,000 and authorized the use of commercial paper.

18. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 2 – BID NUMBER 24-21, JONATHAN ROGERS WATER TREATMENT PLANT RAW WATER IMPROVEMENTS TO SMITHCO CONSTRUCTION, INC., INCREASING THE CONTRACT TIME BY 159 DAYS AND THE CONTRACT PRICE BY \$245,198.79.

Ivan Hernandez, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files). On June 9, 2021, the Public Service Board awarded Bid Number 24-21, Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant Raw Water Improvements, to Smithco Construction, Inc. The project entails improvements to the raw water conveyance system at the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant. The project includes the installation of a new 60-inch magnetic flow meter, replacement of existing fine screens, rehabilitation of existing raw water pump station and addition of a new (fifth) raw water pump train. During construction, it became evident that the existing concrete raw water intake channel had significant spalling at every construction/contraction joint. Expansion joints are needed along the entire length of the channel to prevent future concrete failure which could possibly damage the new equipment. Delays in obtaining Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval to relocate a Border Patrol tower electrical service to complete installation of the screw pump shoring system delayed the contractor by 34 days. In addition, a delay of 41 days resulted from supply chain delays in delivering the 60-inch pipe material. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leaser seconded by Dr. Santiago, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Change Order Number 2 – Bid Number 24-21, Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant Raw Water Improvements to Smithco Construction, Inc., increasing the contract time by 159 days and the contract price by \$245,198.79.

19. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED A PRE-CONSTRUCTION SERVICES CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK SERVICES FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DIGESTERS 1, 2, AND 3 COVERS AND MIXERS REHABILITATION – RFP 79-21 TO MGC CONTRACTORS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$265,000; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$100,000, PROVIDED THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE ADDITIONAL TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS, AND AUTHORIZED USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

Geoffrey Espineli, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant (RRBWTP) began operation in 1991

with Digesters Number 1 and 2. In 2004, the plant was later modified adding Digester Number 3. EPWater plans to rehabilitate the three digesters to bring them up to optimal operation. RRBWWTP needs two functional digesters in operation at all times. The rehabilitation of the digesters will take place one at a time. To better handle the risks of the project, an alternative delivery, CMAR method will be used. The rehabilitation of the digesters will include replacement of covers, mechanical equipment, piping, valves, mixers, electrical panels, and control systems. Under the Pre-Construction services contract, the CMAR Contractor shall collaborate and cooperate with the owner and design engineer to finalize the design, develop construction schedule, procure the trade bid packages for construction, and develop the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the rehabilitation of each digester. Mr. Espineli answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a pre-construction services contract for Construction Manager At-Risk Services for the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant Digesters 1, 2, and 3 Covers and Mixers Rehabilitation – RFP 79-21 to MGC Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$265,000; authorized future task orders or amendments to be issued under this contract for additional pre-construction phase services in the estimated amount of \$100,000, provided that funding is available in the approved budget for the additional task orders or amendments, and authorize use of commercial paper.

20. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE HEATH DE LEON 30-INCH WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN – RFS 64-21 TO CDM SMITH INC. FOR DESIGN PHASE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$562,501; AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN 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 AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF COMMERCIAL PAPER.

Geoffrey Espineli, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater is in the design process to build a new tank and pump station to replace the existing Heath De Leon pump station. The location for the new facilities is located at another site and will require a new distribution line to connect the new pump station to the distribution system. This project will install approximately 9,900 linear feet of new 30-inch water main along Mesa Hills Drive from De Leon Drive to Cabaret Drive. Intent of this project is to improve water distribution from the Upper Valley Pressure Zone to Coronado Country Club 1 Pressure Zone.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional engineering services contract for the Heath De Leon 30-Inch Water Transmission Main – RFS 64-21 to CDM Smith Inc. for design phase services in the amount of \$562,501; authorized future task orders or amendments to be issued under this contract for additional design 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 and authorized the use of commercial paper.

21. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE WITH SECUREVISION OF AMERICA, INC. FOR KAMSTRUP AMI/SMART METERS FOR THE METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$5,800,000, FOR A TERM OF 10 YEARS, CONTINGENT UPON VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.

Martha St. Leon, Business & Customer Service Assistant Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The November 2021 Public Service Board meeting had an agenda item that referenced meter lids and EPWater converting all meters into AMI/Smart Metering as part of the meter replacement program. The meters used for the smart metering system have been in the system for 3 years (approximately 15,700 meters) and the infrastructure is already in place, with 3 collectors installed on water towers at different locations in the city. EPWater plans on installing 20,000 residential ¾” meters this upcoming fiscal year, as well as over 500 large commercial meters. The accuracy of these ultrasonic meters ensures accurate revenue capture plus the smart technology improves the effectiveness of billing and can be used as tools for water conservation efforts. Ms. St. Leon answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board approved a sole source contract in accordance with Section 252.022(a)(7)(A) of the Texas Local Government Code with Securevision of America, Inc. for Kamstrup AMI/Smart Meters for the meter replacement program in the estimated annual amount of \$5,800,000, for a term of 10 years, contingent upon vendor providing annual documentation attesting to their sole source status.

22. AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR WHOLESALE WATER SUPPLY, PROVISION OF WASTEWATER SERVICES, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EAST MONTANA WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS BETWEEN EL PASO WATER UTILITIES–PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD AND THE COUNTY OF EL PASO FOR WHOLESALE WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER SERVICES AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNTY OF EL PASO’S EAST MONTANA WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM.

Adriana Castillo, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On July 8, 2020, the Public Service Board approved a resolution authorizing EPWater staff to work with the County of El Paso to explore the County’s request to enter into a water and wastewater operating agreement for the East Montana Water System. EPWater and the County of El Paso currently have separate wholesale agreements for the areas of Mayfair/Nuway, Schuman, Colonia Revolucion, Square Dance, and East Montana. The purpose of the new agreement is to combine all the agreements under a single wholesale agreement and add the operation and maintenance of the system. In addition, the contract also covers the incorporation of the Hillcrest Center area and the option to incorporate future underserved communities. This will allow clarity and uniformity for all areas and provide one central agreement between both parties for future amendments and revisions. Ms. Castillo answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Dr. Santiago and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the President/CEO to sign a contract for Wholesale Water Supply, Provision of Wastewater Services, and Operation and Maintenance of East Montana Water and Wastewater Systems between El Paso Water Utilities–Public Service Board and the County of El Paso for wholesale water supply and wastewater services and operation and maintenance of the County of El Paso’s East Montana Water and Wastewater System.

23. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO’S SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UNDER FUNDING OPPORTUNITY R22AS00115 “WATERSMART TITLE XVI WIIN ACT WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECTS” IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$20,000,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR FINAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY IN EL PASO, TEXAS; AUTHORIZED EPWATER’S FUNDING COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$60,000,000; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION, GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT.

Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications & Government Affairs Officer, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater is planning to submit a grant application due March 15, 2022, to pursue funding for final design, construction management services, equipment and construction of the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is offering funding opportunity R22AS00115, “WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects.” The WIIN Act program has received additional infrastructure funding from Congress and has increased its funding cap from \$20 million to \$30 million for projects that have a USBR-approved feasibility study. The program involves a competitive selection process, and projects can receive up to 25% of overall project costs up to the cap. For this grant cycle, successful applicants must use funds prior to September 2025. Additional grant applications are allowed for the same project until the cap is reached. Total cost of the AWPF is expected to be an estimated \$120 million with completion in 2026. Ms. Rosendorf answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Resolution authorizing the President/CEO’s submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

under Funding Opportunity R22AS00115 “WaterSMART Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects” in the estimated amount of \$20,000,000 in grant funding for final design, construction management services, equipment and construction costs for the Advanced Water Purification Facility in El Paso, Texas; authorized EPWater’s funding commitment to allocate an estimated amount of \$60,000,000; and further authorized the President/CEO to provide and sign any documents in connection with the grant application, grant agreement and acceptance of the funds for this project.

24. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO’S SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UNDER FUNDING OPPORTUNITY R22AS00117 “WATERSMART: DESALINATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDER THE WIIN ACT” IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,625,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR A NEW SKID AND AS PART OF PHASE ONE OF THE DESALINATION EXPANSION PROJECT IN EL PASO, TEXAS; AND AUTHORIZED EL PASO WATER’S FUNDING COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$7,875,000; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION, GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT.

Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications & Government Affairs Officer, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) This is a revision to an action item from February 2022. The engineering firm came back with a significant cost increase for the two planned projects, and EPWater staff is recommending to only pursue one project, the skid (or treatment unit) at this time. EPWater is planning to submit a grant application – due March 15, 2022 -- to pursue funding for installation of a new skid (or treatment unit) as part of the expansion plan for the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant (KBH). This project is an essential step to expand plant capacity by an estimated 6 MGD. The project has a USBR-approved Feasibility Report and has received funding for an initial Phase 1 expansion project, a source augmentation pipeline to deliver source water to KBH. Ms. Rosendorf answered questions from the Board on this item.

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board approved a Resolution authorizing the President/CEO’s submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under Funding Opportunity R22AS00117 “WaterSMART: Desalination Construction Projects Under the WIIN Act” in the amount of \$2,625,000 in grant funding for a new skid and as part of Phase One of the Desalination Expansion project in El Paso, Texas; and authorized El Paso Water’s funding commitment to allocate the estimated amount of \$7,875,000; and further authorized the President/CEO to provide and sign any documents necessary in connection with the grant application, grant agreement and acceptance of the funds for this project.

25. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

• **FRONTERA FORCE MAIN UPDATE**

Gilbert Trejo, Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Fronter Force Mains clean up is underway with irrigation season expected to begin on June 1, 2022 there is a short window of opportunity to get it all done. Mr. Trejo let the board know that this is a multi-organization effort that includes EPWater stormwater crews, Arcadis contractors, IBWC, CILA, Blue Life Environmental and EPCWID1. Mr. Trejo showed pictures of the river remediation project overview and the El Paso water river remediation progress, as well as the Arcadis USA, Inc. and IBWC remediation project progress. EPWater’s commitment is to complete remediation on the river before irrigation season, work effectively with remediation partners, cooperate with regulatory agencies, be good environmental stewards, and be transparent with the public and stakeholders. Mr. Trejo answered questions from the Board on this item.

• **CHANGE ORDER UPDATES**

Ivan Hernandez, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files). Mr. Hernandez showed the performance since the previous update with a line graph of updated change order performance of all EPWater construction projects from years 2014 through March 2022. The graph showed that in the year 2020, 47% projects were completed and in the year 2021, 21% of projects were completed. In addition, Mr. Hernandez showed the performance since

the previous update on change order percentage per classification. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the Board on this item.

- **ON-CALL UPDATES**

Geoffrey Espineli, Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Mr. Espineli provided bar graphs of updates on all professional services on-call contracts. On-call contracts included, On-Call Architect contract expiring in January 2024, On-Call Construction Management expiring in February 2023, On-Call Dam Design expiring December 2022, On-Call for Environmental Services expiring September 2022, On-Call for Geotechnical & Materials Testing Services expiring August 2023, O-Call Landscape Architect expiring February 2023, On-Call for Lift Stations expiring August 2022, On-Call Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing expiring August 2023, On-Call Small Diameter Pipe expiring August 2022, On-Call Large Diameter Pipe expiring February 2025, On-Call Planned Water Line expiring June 2023, On-Call Stormwater Systems expiring June 2023, On-Call Structural Engineering expiring January 2025, On-Call for Surveying Services expiring November 2022, On-Call for Wastewater Treatment Plant expiring September 2022, On-Call Pump Station expiring September 2022, On-Call Storage Facilities expiring January 2023, On-Call for Water Treatment Plant expiring September 2022, On-Call for TxDOT Transportation Projects expiring January 2025, and On-Call Subsurface Utility Engineering, which expired October 2021. Mr. Espineli answered questions from the Board on this item.

- **CIS UPDATE**

Mark Bolduc, Business and Customer Service Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The implementation of the new CIS was successfully completed. There were nineteen months to go live and have moved to 6 months of stabilization with an estimated total cost of \$23,520,000 with 12 EPWater Core Team Members. Project Partners included Oracle, TMG Consulting for project management and training, Infosys for system implementation, Milestone for customer service self-service, KloudGin for mobile workforce system, Paymentus for payment services and Centrilogic. Mr. Bolduc showed a Project Schedule and a list of stakeholders. Mr. Bolduc explained to the Board the post Go-Live issues, which included that the new payment provider was taking payment in most channels with MoneyGram pending deployment, and IVR band-width being increased to handle overflow. There have been 24,421 log-ins, 12,097 registrations, 788 service orders, 3,078 enrollments, and payments collected were \$1.6M\$31K in declines, -\$1.1K in returns and \$13.4K in autopayments. Mr. Bolduc showed pie charts to depict the payments by channel and payments by method. Successful implementation of the system went live on March 2nd as scheduled; the Call Center is back online and has been taking calls, new payment provider is also taking payments, workflows are ramping up across the board, on-the-job training will be on-going in most areas for the next month and everyone is striving to learn and improve effectiveness in the new system. Mr. Bolduc answered questions from the Board on this item.

- **NEW MAIN OFFICE UPDATE**

Laura Foster, Chief Architect, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Ms. Foster spoke about the multiple site considerations, including 2017-2019 responses to an RFI and 2 RFPs, which allowed EPWater to consider multiple scenarios comparing acquisition, leasing, rehabilitation and construction costs. All options studied were either impractical or most costly than staying at 1154 Hawkins. Ms. Foster showed pictures of the multiple site considerations and the site consideration compare costs to include downtown buildings 1 through 5, Hawkins remodel, Hawkins replacement and Hawkins New. Ms. Foster let the Board know that EPWater explored the sale or lease of existing building or creating space for EPCC or another occupant, but studies determined site-sharing scenario was not feasible due to parking requirements. The project scope update was that an updated in-house occupancy study determined that the project requires 75,000 square feet for 230 staff and 270 vehicles and is reflected in the RFQ. The Budget updated proportionately to \$30,000,000 or \$397 per square foot as per 2019 cost opinion. The RFQ for the new building at 1154 Hawkins is with the requirement that current building remain operation during construction. Mr. Foster provided a 2022 project status update to the Board and let them know that the programming and conceptual deisn is

complete. The new project is 293 FTW, 75,000 square feet and the RFP for Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) is to be advertised late march. The CMAR will include 3 packages: parking, new building, demolition of old building and the estimated construction completion date is December 2024. Ms. Foster answered questions from the Board on this item.

- **TECH2O EDUCATION VIDEO**

Anai Padilla, Tech2O Manager, provided a presentation to the Board on this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Ms. Padilla let the board know that the pandemic caused a shift from in-person to virtual education opportunities. Their objectives were to develop a suite of online educational materials that could be used by teachers or Tech2O staff, provide activities and lessons with a connection to local culture, places, history and the environment, align lessons to state standards and work with local educators to get feedback for continuous improvement to maximize use in the classroom. Ms. Padilla provided samples of the tools developed for El Paso Water and Science and let the Board know of the continuous virtual presentations offered to meet demand. Ms. Padilla showed a video from Tech2O on Science, Water and the Rio Grande. Ms. Padilla answered questions from the Board on this item.

26. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:45 a.m., March 9, 2022, pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through 551.089 to discuss the following:

Section 551.071	Consultation with Attorney
Section 551.072	Deliberation Regarding Real Property
Section 551.073	Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
Section 551.074	Personnel Matters
Section 551.076	Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits
Section 551.087	Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations
Section 551.089	Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

Discussion and action on the following:

- a. The Board will deliberate regarding the purchase of the real property legally described as follows: Lots 1A and 2A, Block 26, Mission Hills Addition Replat "A", an addition to the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. (551.071, 551.072)

On a motion made by Mayor Leeser, seconded by Ms. Saenz and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 11:20 a.m., March 9, 2022.

- a. **THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE REAL PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOTS 1A AND 2A, BLOCK 26, MISSION HILLS ADDITION REPLAT "A", AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS. (551.071, 551.072)**

Motion made by Ms. Saenz and seconded by Dr. Santiago that the President and CEO be authorized to proceed with the acquisition of land in the manner approved by the Board, and in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by the Board, to sign any and all documents necessary to complete the purchase of the property.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Dr. Santiago, seconded by Mayor Leeser and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m., March 9, 2022.

ATTEST:



Kristina Mena, Chair



Bryan Morris, Secretary-Treasurer