MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
February 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, February 12, 2025

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT
Bryan Morris, Chair
Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Anna Gitter, Member
Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Member
Charlie Intebi, Vice-Chair
Mayor Renard U. Johnson

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT
John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Michaela Grambling, Senior Assistant General Counsel

EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT
Ana Sanchez, Vice President of Financial and Management Services
Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services
Adam Wickersham, Vice President of IT
Art Duran, Chief Financial Officer
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager
Aldo Gomez Fierro, Support Services Specialist III
Robert Evans, Software Developer I
Geoffrey Espineli, Engineer Division Manager
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel
Adriana Castillo, Engineer Division Manager
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent
Gretchen Byram, Utility Senior Computer Media Specialist
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Alejandro Vidales, Utility Land and Water Rights Manager
Enrique Ochoa, Engineering Division Manager
Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager
Scott Reinert, Water Resource Manager
Sergio Saenz, Utility Assistant Chief Information Officer

GUEST
John Barela, Borderplex Alliance
Marcos Delgado, Borderplex Alliance

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Bryan Morris at 8:01 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Mr. John Barela in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Block Uribarri and seconded by Mayor Johnson, items 4 and 5 were pulled from the consent agenda and placed into the regular agenda.

On a single motion made by Dr. Gitter, seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously carried, the board took action on the following consent agenda items:

1. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2025.**

2. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT WITH CONTERRA ULTRA BROADBAND, LLC DBA CONTERRA NETWORKS THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 25-7511 TECHNOLOGY, HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND RELATED GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $1,500,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 25-7511 IS IN PLACE.**

3. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE INCREASE TO MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO PUREOPS, LLC THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 21-7402 INDUSTRIAL PUMPS, MOTORS, FILTERS, FLOW METERS, AND RELATED FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF $1,500,000 TO INCREASE THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT CUMULATIVE AMOUNT TO $2,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $2,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 21-7402 IS IN PLACE.**

6. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO PHIL LONG FORD DENVER THROUGH THE TIPS COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 240901 TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $2,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $2,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF TIPS COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO 240901 IS IN PLACE.**

7. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY ISSUED TO SOUTHWEST WATER SUPPLIES AND SERVICES, THROUGH ESC REGION 19 ALLIED STATES COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 22-7434 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND OPERATION (MRO) EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,000,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $3,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 22-7434 IS IN PLACE.**

8. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY ISSUED TO THREE-O-MACHINE SHOP INC., THROUGH ESC REGION 19 ALLIED STATES COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 22-7434 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND OPERATION (MRO) EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,000,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $1,500,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 22-7434 IS IN PLACE.**

9. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT ISSUED TO IXOM WATERCARE INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF GRIDBEE THM REMOVAL SYSTEM EQUIPMENT, PARTS, AND PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO INCREASE THE EXISTING CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,000,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $1,070,635.38 AND AMEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE FIVE ONE-YEAR OPTIONS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING ONE-YEAR TERM THAT ENDS IN JUNE 2025, FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $1,000,000 FOR EACH OPTION YEAR EXERCISED, PROVIDED THAT THE VENDOR PROVIDES ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS IS PROVIDED.

10. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 3 FOR BID NUMBER 11-23, MCGREGOR 16-INCH WATERLINE, NORTHEAST DYER INTERCEPTOR PHASE IV, FRANKLIN EAST WATER LINE EXTENSION PHASE II TO S.J. LOUIS CONSTRUCTION, INC. INCREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY $435,011.03 AND INCREASING THE CONTRACT TIME BY 49 DAYS.

11. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR BID NO. 47-23 PUMPING SYSTEMS FURNISH, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE – PHASE IV WITH PUMPTECH HOLDINGS, LLC D.B.A. ALPHA SOUTHWEST AN IMPEL COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF $750,000 AND AN ADDITIONAL 120 DAYS TO THE CONTRACT TIME.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY TO MYTHICS LLC THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE OMNIA CONTRACT NO. 180233-002 ORACLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL $4,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE ANNUAL EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE OMNIA CONTRACT NO. 180233-002 IS IN PLACE.

Alfredo Solano, Chief Information Officer, 915-594-5662, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) A master contract was issued through the cooperative Omnia Contract No. 180233-002 to Mythics LLC for Oracle products and services pursuant to the delegated authority of the President/CEO or designee to issue master contracts with awarded vendors participating in approved cooperative purchasing programs for an estimated annual master contract amount of $500,000 without further Public Service Board (PSB) approval. Mr. Solano answered questions from the board on this item.

Additional capacity in the amount of $4,500,000 is needed for the master contract with Mythics LLC to purchase Oracle products and services for EPWater's business-critical applications and solutions. The products and services offered through the Omnia Contract No. 180233-002 to Mythics LLC include:

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by, Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an increase in the master contract capacity to Mythics LLC through the cooperative Omnia Contract No. 180233-002 Oracle Products and Services by an additional $4,500,000 for a cumulative annual existing master contract amount of $5,000,000 and authorize the issuance of future master contracts in the estimated annual amount of $5,000,000 for as long as the term of the Omnia Contract No. 180233-002 is in place.

5. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY TO SEQUEL DATA SYSTEMS, INC. THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE ESC REGION 8 TIPS NO. 210101 TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICE BY AN ADDITIONAL $4,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE ANNUAL EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL

AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE ESC REGION 8 TIPS NO. 210101 IS IN PLACE.

Sergio Saenz, Utility Assistant Chief Information Officer, 915-594-5614, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) A master contract was issued through the ESC Region 8 TIPS No. 210101 to Sequel Data Systems, Inc. for Technology Solutions, Products and Service pursuant to the delegated authority of the President/CEO or designee to issue master contracts with awarded vendors participating in approved cooperative purchasing programs for an estimated annual master contract amount of $500,000 without further Public Service Board (PSB) approval. Mr. Saenz and Mr. Adam Wickersham, Vice President of Information Technology answered questions from the board on this item.

Additional capacity in the amount of $4,500,000 is needed for the master contract with Sequel Data Systems, Inc. to purchase the communication infrastructure, data center equipment, servers, storage, network equipment, licensing, and support.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an increase in the master contract capacity to Sequel Data Systems, Inc. through the cooperative ESC Region 8 TIPS No. 210101 Technology Solutions, Products and Service by an additional $4,500,000 for a cumulative annual existing master contract amount of $5,000,000 and authorize the issuance of future master contracts in the estimated annual amount of $5,000,000 for as long as the term of the ESC Region 8 TIPS No. 210101 is in place.

12. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:

- **NACWA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
  - **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD FOR THE SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING PROGRAM**
  - **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR ARROYO 1 DAM AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**
- **ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING – FEBRUARY 27, 2025.**

13. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

- **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

14. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAY NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

Mr. John Rezendes signed up to speak.

15. ANNUAL PRESENTATION BY THE BORDERPLEX ALLIANCE REPORTING ON THE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BORDERPLEX ALLIANCE UNDER THE TWO-YEAR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EPWATER FOR PLANNING SERVICES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(4) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2024.

John Barela, Borderplex Alliance, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater has been designated by the State of Texas as the regional water planning authority for the El Paso region. The Borderplex Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic development in the El Paso-Las Cruces-Ciudad Juárez region. EPWater and the Borderplex Alliance have an existing services agreement in effect through February 2026. The Borderplex Alliance provides planning services and assists EPWater in identifying potential buyers and/or lessees for EPWater-owned property. Under the services agreement, the Borderplex Alliance is required to give an annual presentation to the Public Service Board detailing the prior year's activities. Mr. Barela answered questions to the board on this item.

This item had no action.

16. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND ACCEPTED THE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NUMBER 5 (GMP 5) IN THE AMOUNT OF $25,933,656.

Geoffrey Espineli, Utility Engineering Division Manager, 915-594-5591, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Bustamante Plant was designed for a treatment flow capacity of 39 MGD in 1991. A study conducted in 2019 revealed that the organic treatment capacity of the plant has decreased to 30 MGD, due to increased strength of the wastewater. Further, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires planning an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant once 75% of the plant's flow capacity is exceeded for three consecutive months. In addition to the lower treatment capacity, the Bustamante Plant is also at 75% of the permitted flow capacity due to growth in east El Paso, requiring EPWater to expand the plant to an increased capacity of 51 MGD.

There are 2 phases for this project. Phase 1 is the construction of the new 21.4 MGD treatment train, and the project estimate is $585 million. Phase 2 consists of the rehabilitation of the existing 39 MGD to restore 9 MGD of treatment capacity to the plant, and is currently estimated at $200 million. At the completion of the project, the Bustamante WWTP will have gained 30.4 MGD of treatment capacity. This agenda item is to request the approval of the GMP 5 work package for Phase 1, which includes the Generator and Switchgear work package.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk construction contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Improvements project and accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price Number 5 (GMP 5) in the amount of $25,933,656.

17. CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO OR DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE, SELECT AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT ARE PART OF EPWATER'S FY25-26 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY AND THE MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY THAT ARE PROCURED USING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING METHOD OR THE COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL METHOD, WHICH COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND EPWATER POLICY AND THAT DO NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF $6,000,000 PER CONTRACT AWARD, NOT INCLUSIVE OF CHANGE ORDERS, WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD APPROVAL; THIS DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ALSO INCLUDES THE REJECTION OF BIDS AND TERMINATION OF AWARDED CONTRACTS.

Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager, 915-594-5538, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On January 8, 2025, the PSB approved the FY2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets for the Water and Sewer Utility and the Municipal Drainage Utility. As in the previous fiscal year, the FY25-26 CIP budgets reflect a series of projects that are each estimated to be under $6 million. Staff requests the approval of a resolution delegating authority to the President/CEO or Designee to evaluate, select, and award construction contracts certain construction contracts that do not exceed $6 million dollars in order to efficiently complete the number of CIP projects for FY25-26.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted a Resolution of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board delegating the authority to the President/CEO or Designee to evaluate, select and award construction contracts for construction projects that are part of EPWater's FY25-26 Capital Improvement Program for the Water and Sewer Utility and the Municipal Drainage Utility that are procured using the competitive bidding method or the competitive sealed proposal method, which comply with all applicable laws and EPWater policy and that do not to exceed the amount of $6,000,000 per contract award, not inclusive of change orders, without further Public Service Board approval; this delegation of authority also includes the rejection of bids and termination of awarded contracts. Mrs. Castillo answered questions from the board on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Ms. Block Uribarri, and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 9:15 a.m. February 12, 2025, 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:

The Public Service Board will retire into Executive Session pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.089. (The items listed below are matters of the sort to be discussed in Executive Session; however, the Public Service Board may move any item of this agenda to Executive Session, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.)

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

a. THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CAN BE DECLARED INEXPEDIENT TO THE WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS: HILL TERRACE REPLAT NO. 1, BLOCK 1, LOT 3, EL PASO COUNTY, EL PASO, TEXAS. (551.071) (551.072)

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Mr. Morris executive item a. was postponed for one month.

b. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD. (551.071)

On a motion made by Ms. Block Uribarri, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the regular meetings of the El Paso Water Public Service Board will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at the hour of 8:30 a.m for a period of 12 months starting March 2025**.** In March 2026 the PSB will decide whether to amend the bylaws to make this change long-term or whether to revert to the 8:00am start time.

Any action as a result of these discussions will be taken at the re-opening of this meeting or at a subsequent meeting.

On a motion made by Ms. Block Uribarri, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 10:13 a.m., February 12, 2025.

Mr. Morris adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m., February 12, 2025.

ATTEST:

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Bryan Morris, Chair

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Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer