



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **WR-1**

September 14, 2016

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*  
Director of Public Works

### **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION – INTENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SERVICES AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT DAMS SOLE-SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCY**

In compliance with Board Policy 5.100, which mandates advance notification to the Board for sole-source agreements in excess of \$250,000, this memorandum is to advise the Board of Public Works' intent to enter into a sole-source agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for as-needed specialized services for Los Angeles County Flood Control District dams with an anticipated total not-to-exceed cost of \$2,000,000.

The duration of the proposed agreement would be 5 years from the date of execution, which could be extended through an amendment for up to 12 additional months to allow for the completion of work.

The funding for services provided under this agreement would be financed on an annual basis beginning with the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Flood Control District Fund Budget. Financing for subsequent years would be made available through the annual budget process.

#### Background

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District owns and operates 14 major dams located within the County of Los Angeles. Many of these facilities have been in service for over 80 years. The District requires specialized services to perform evaluations and studies at its dams. The required expertise and experience is currently not available within the District. These specialized services would be utilized as the District develops

projects to support the reliable operation of outlet valves and mechanical systems, to address dam safety improvements, to integrate new technology, and to meet new operational requirements. Dam outlet works and/or spillway improvements are planned for Cogswell, Big Tujunga, San Gabriel, Pacoima, Devil's Gate, and Puddingstone Diversion Dams. These improvements will facilitate more efficient and reliable dam operations for flood management and stormwater capture. Additionally, spillway improvements are proposed that will enable additional reservoir storage to increase our ability to capture stormwater for local sustainable water supply. Having this agreement in place will also enable us to use expert resources to quickly respond to unusual events related to dam safety.

#### Justification for Sole-Source Agreement with the Bureau

The Bureau is a Federal agency that has constructed over 600 dams and reservoirs, including Hoover Dam, and is uniquely equipped and qualified to provide the specialized services necessary to support the District's dam safety and operability programs. The Bureau's Technical Service Center consists of approximately 500 scientists and engineers, and operates a world-class materials and hydraulic engineering laboratory. The Bureau is familiar with the District's standards. For the following District dams (Cogswell, Big Tujunga, San Gabriel, Pacoima, Devil's Gate, and Puddingstone Diversion), the Bureau may conduct assessment and evaluation studies and physical modeling of the dams' safety and performance, seismic stability, inlet/outlet works, spillway structures, and electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, and control systems on an as-needed basis. The studies may also include developing concepts for improvements, rehabilitations, and/or automation of various systems at these dams. In addition, the Bureau would perform technical peer reviews and inspections during design, construction, and rehabilitation activities at these dams. These services are necessary to support the District's programs to ensure the structural integrity and performance of District dams for reliable flood management and stormwater capture.

On June 29, 1999, the Board approved an agreement with the Bureau for \$330,000 to develop concepts for inlet and outlet modernization for District dams and to perform the technical review of the design plans for the outlet works at Morris Dam. Supplemental agreements were entered into, which increased the total not-to-exceed fee to \$378,500. On June 18, 2002, the Board approved two agreements with the Bureau for \$42,000 and \$325,000 to conduct threat assessments for District dams and to evaluate the inlet and outlet works at Big Tujunga, Santa Anita, and Puddingstone Dams, respectively. The Bureau was very responsive and comprehensive in its previous evaluation studies and peer reviews. The ability to employ the Bureau's expert services has proven to be

Each Supervisor  
September 14, 2016  
Page 3

a very valuable and unique resource for developing and implementing District dam projects.

We are working with County Counsel and the Bureau to develop the proposed agreement and will return to the Board for approval to execute the new agreement. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Gary Hildebrand, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4012 or [ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov).

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Rochelle Goff, Anthony Baker)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office