

Casitas Municipal Water District

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Baggerly/Spandrio

June 18, 2020
10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held via teleconference
To attend the meeting call (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247
Enter Meeting ID 940 3544 7944#

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Public comments
3. Board/Management comments
4. Presentation on the Boardroom Audio-Visual Upgrade.
5. Review Messaging for Comprehensive Water Resources Plan.
6. Public Opinion Survey Status Update.

Right to be heard: Members of the public have a right to address the Board directly on any item of interest to the public which is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. The request to be heard should be made immediately before the Board's consideration of the item. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of ¶54954.2 of the Government Code.

If you require special accommodations for attendance at or participation in this meeting, please notify our office in advance (805) 649-2251 ext. 113. (Govt. Code Section 65954.1 and 54954.2(a). Please be advised that members of the Board of Directors of Casitas who are not members of this standing committee may attend the committee meeting referred to above only in the capacity of observers, and may not otherwise take part in the meeting. (Govt. Code Sections 54952.2(c)(6).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Relations Committee
From: Michael L. Flood, General Manager
RE: **Presentation on Boardroom Audio-Visual Upgrade**
Date: June 12, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Relations Committee recommend the Board of Directors award a contract to CPI Solutions of Camarillo, Ca. in the amount not-to-exceed \$42,999.88.

BACKGROUND:

During the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of August 14, 2019, the Board asked that an item be added to a future Board agenda to discuss enhancements to the District's audio-visual system in the Boardroom.

During the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of August 28, 2019, the General Manager presented a recommendation to have this issue assigned to the Ad-Hoc Public Relations Committee.

After attempting to contact the original designer/installer of the Boardroom Audio-Visual system with no success, CPI Solutions of Camarillo, Ca was contacted and subsequently provided research and a proposal for the District's consideration in February 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The Board's desire is to have the Boardroom audio-visual system provide a 'broadcast-quality' experience for the public that is viewing meetings either live or via the archives.

This methodology would mimic those broadcast techniques currently in place at some of the local public agencies that would replace the current static shot of the Directors at the dais.

CPI Solutions provide a team to research and diagram the current configuration and a path forward to an enhanced broadcast capability.

The current cost estimate is \$42,999.88 and will include new hardware, racks, the associated wiring, and staff training.

A presentation will be provided during the Committee meeting.

CMWD's Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Message Platform

PERSISTENT DROUGHTS ARE A MAJOR VULNERABILITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY
THE TIME TO SECURE OUR WATER FUTURE IS NOW
A ROADMAP TO OVERCOMING OUR WATER CHALLENGES: DIVERSIFYING OUR PORTFOLIO
PLANNING FOR OUR WATER FUTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

PERSISTENT DROUGHTS ARE A MAJOR VULNERABILITY FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY

- **[Mission]** As the public agency responsible for keeping taps flowing in Western Ventura County, our mission is to provide our customers with safe and reliable water and recreational opportunities in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.
- **[About]** The Casitas Municipal Water District (District) serves roughly 70,000 people, as well as hundreds of farms and local businesses.
- **[Plan Ahead]** Our customers rely on the water we provide to maintain the quality of life that we desire in this beautiful but drought-prone region of the state, and it is incumbent upon us, as our community's water experts and policy professionals, to plan responsibly for the future.
- **[One Source]** Lake Casitas is a primary water source for those that live here and was designed to get us through those periods of drought, which are becoming longer, more frequent and more severe with the increasing impacts of climate change.
- **[Drought]** According to the [US Drought Monitor](#), California's most recent statewide drought was the longest in the state's history and lasted more than seven years – from December 2011 to March 2019.
 - [A recent study](#) described the state's last drought as the "second driest 19-year period since 800 CE," and went further to suggest that this appears to be just the beginning of a more extreme trend toward regular megadrought cycles as global warming continues.
- **[Local Impacts]** We are seeing the impacts of this evolving "megadrought" right here in our own backyard.
 - On May 13, 2020, the District's Board of Directors declared a continuance of the Stage 3 drought conditions, which have been in place since April of 2016. There are a total 5 drought stages that require a higher level of conservation from stages 1-5 depending on the water levels at Lake Casitas.
 - In January of 2019, the water in Lake Casitas reached the lowest levels ever recorded at 30% of the lake's total capacity.
 - The District forecasts that, without additional measures, Lake Casitas could be unable to perform its designed function in the next six years if faced with continued drought conditions and higher temperatures.
- **[Wildfires]** Wildfires are an unfortunate and increasing reality of life in California.

- We rely on water in Lake Casitas to help us fight wildfires throughout the region, such as the recent Thomas Fire.
- Wildfires can have a negative impact on local water quality, as they increase the amount of sediment and debris that flows down the watershed into our water supply facilities.
- Diversifying our water portfolio will allow for continued access to high-quality water to augment local supplies, even during periods of wildfire.
- **[Need for a Solution]** The recent prolonged drought highlights the importance of efficient water usage, and the need for a long-term solution to our region’s consistent drought conditions.
 - Depending on a primary source of water such as Lake Casitas is risky for any community, let alone one that has a history of consistent drought cycles.
 - We must act now to diversify the sources of our water supply or face increasing water shortages during the next five years if drought conditions continue. This can lead to more stringent water use restrictions, which affect everyone in our community and could have longer lasting impacts to the quality of life here.

THE TIME TO SECURE OUR WATER FUTURE IS NOW

- **[Comprehensive Approach]** Securing our region’s water future requires us to evaluate every tool in the toolbox to ensure we can provide water to the community in those times when we need it most.
- **[Water Plan]** Our District has developed a Comprehensive Water Resources Plan (Water Plan) that provides a long-term roadmap to ensure our community has a reliable water supply:
 - Assesses current water supplies against forecasted demand through the year 2040.
 - Makes recommendations for closing the forecast water supply gap through a portfolio of projects that should be implemented now to prepare for anticipated shortfalls.
- **[Supply Gap]** Without action, our community will have a short-term water supply gap in the next five years and a dramatic water supply gap by 2040 due to recurring and worsening drought conditions – not population growth.
 - An additional 5,200 acre-feet per year (AFY) is needed by 2040, which is equivalent to 27% of our average annual customer demand.
 - This additional water supply is needed to serve our existing customers — it would supplement existing supply when limited during droughts — and filling the supply gap does not support significant future growth in population.
- **[Need to Act Now]** Twenty years may sound like a long time, but new infrastructure projects take years to plan and develop.
 - Creating a secure and diversified water supply will not happen overnight. We need to act now if we are to overcome the water supply challenges that we face together, as a community.

A ROADMAP TO OVERCOMING OUR WATER CHALLENGES: DIVERSIFYING OUR PORTFOLIO

- **[Thorough Project Analysis]** The District launched a comprehensive analysis and evaluated more than 30 different projects and programs – including a range of desalination, recycled water, capital

improvement, conservation, groundwater and surface water enhancement projects and programs – using technical, economic, environmental, and social criteria.

- **[Portfolio Approach]** The most viable portfolio of solutions is presented in the Water Plan as our recommended path forward, which includes a range of structural projects, nonstructural projects, policies and programs.
 - New **policies** are recommended to ensure the District has a robust risk-based approach to meeting future water supply and demand conditions.
 - New **infrastructure projects** will increase our ability to maximize our current water supplies and allow us to connect to additional water supply sources to address our community's immediate and long-term supply risks, including:
 - A combination of **local supply projects** – including well rehabilitation and replacement and fish screen improvements at our Robles diversion facility – will improve the efficiency of our existing supplies in the Ventura River watershed. These projects can be implemented quickly to meet short-term needs, but that will only take us so far.
 - Diversifying our water supply – through **supplemental supply projects** – remains the most important objective that we must achieve to ensure long-term water reliability in our community. The most viable way to diversify our community's water supply is by connecting to the State Water Project.
 - The Water Plan recognizes the need for adaptive management – the future doesn't always turn out as planned – and includes **conditional options** that can be pursued if the recommended projects produce less water than expected or cannot be implemented. The conditional options serve as a backup plan if needed.
 - For example, additional **conservation** and **demand management** programs can go a long way towards stretching the water supply we have currently, but conservation and demand management alone would not provide water to our community during times of water shortage, and supplemental supplies would be needed for prolonged droughts.
 - By connecting to the state's "water grid" that is the State Water Project, we will always have access to additional water as we need it.
- **[About the SWP]** Our District has always envisioned connecting to the State Water Project, the backbone of the state's water supply network that brings high-quality water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to communities throughout California.
- **[Benefits of SWP]** Our District and our customers have been paying for contracts to this water supply for decades, but selling that water to other Southern California water districts since we still do not have the infrastructure needed to bring this water into our community.
 - Faced with climate change and increasing water supply challenges, we must add to our primary source, Lake Casitas, and connect directly to the State Water Project – the most viable project that we can pursue.
 - By connecting to the State Water Project through a series of pipelines, we will be able to blend and augment our existing supply from Lake Casitas with high quality drinking water – helping fill the forecasted gap.
- **[Cost]** The capital improvement cost for the Water Plan's recommended projects is \$155 million, which would likely be funded over time through non-rate revenue sources such as bonds or grants.

- **[Necessary, Cost-Effective Investment]** The District has carefully weighed the options that provide a more reliable supply of high-quality drinking water in the most cost-effective manner. It's an investment that we can't afford to delay.

PLANNING FOR OUR WATER FUTURE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- **[Community's Vested Interest]** Our customers have a vested interest in how we work together to put this plan into action.
- **[Community-Centered Solution]** Planning for our region's water future is our responsibility, but it is also a conversation with our community.
- **[Transparent Process]** To assist in the development of Casitas' Comprehensive Water Resources Plan, public input was received through two stakeholder workshops and 13 public meetings. Our customers also had the ability to submit written comments.
- **[Seeking Public Input]** As we work to finalize this plan, we want to hear from you.
 - For more information about the Water Plan or to provide a comment about the plan itself, please visit www.casitaswater.org/your-water/casitas-water-security, email us at info@casitaswater.com, or just give us a call at 805-649-2251.
 - You can also mail your comments or questions to our District headquarters, located at: 1055 Ventura Ave. Oak View, CA 93022.

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