



**COMMISSION FILE NO:** 26-063-5 **DATE INTRODUCED:** May 4, 2026

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

**REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO:** Operations Committee

**RELATING TO:** Restore the Executive Director’s Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04075C01, Dewatering and Drying Belt Filter Press Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

**SUMMARY:**

The Commission is requested to restore the Executive Director’s original delegated change order authority on Contract J04075C01, Dewatering and Drying (D&D) Belt Filter Press (BFP) Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF), with Doral Corporation (Doral).

The D&D Building at JIWRF houses 24 BFP’s. BFP’s are part of the overall biosolids processing system and are specifically used to dewater biosolids prior to drying in the production of Milorganite®. The existing BFP’s went into service in 2012 and 2013.

A BFP uses a permeable belt to allow water to drain from the sludge through the gravity zone and then presses the sludge between rollers through the compression zone to extract as much water as possible. Each BFP contains 16 rollers and associated bearings that support the belt through the gravity and compression zones. Sludge is combined with polymer and ferric chloride to enhance the dewatering process. Sludge entering the BFP has a solids concentration of about 3.5%, and cake sludge leaving the BFP has about 18% solids.

The BFP’s are usually run 24 hours per day/seven days per week but may be out of service due to low solids levels in the plants or if a dryer that the BFP feeds is out of service. Regular BFP use causes several parts to wear and require replacement. In addition, BFP components are constantly exposed to water, sludge, sludge conditioning agents, and belt cleaning solutions that cause them to deteriorate due to corrosion.

**ATTACHMENTS:** BACKGROUND  KEY ISSUES  RESOLUTION   
FISCAL NOTE  SBE  OTHER  \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMITTEE ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04075C01, Dewatering and Drying Belt Filter Press Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

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In March 2023, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to execute Contract J04075C01 with Doral to overhaul the BFP's and the surrounding equipment and piping in the amount of \$13,984,000. Under this contract, Doral performs the following work:

- Overhaul 23 BFP's by replacing belts, roller assemblies, bearings, hydraulic components, gear motors, tensioning components, and wear components.
- Replace ancillary piping, valves, and flow meters for all 24 BFP's. These assets are 30 years old and original to the D&D building.
- Replace components in the local control panel (LCP) for all 24 BFP's. Operators use the LCP to monitor and optimize BFP performance. LCP components are also original to D&D and include digital indicators, manual potentiometer controls, indicator lights, selector switches, and pushbuttons. The cabinets and wiring of the LCP's remain in good condition.
- Replace or repair structural steel beams, columns, and other supports adjacent to each of the 24 BFP's. These structural items have been corroded by the same spray of water, sludge, sludge conditioning agents, and cleaning solutions that corroded the BFP components and ancillary systems.
- Blast clean and coat the structural steel beams, columns, and supports to reduce future corrosion.

As work on the contract progressed, staff executed change orders under the Executive Director's authority in the amount of \$391,506 and under Commission authority in the amount of \$1,304,932 to address several issues not covered by the original contract scope. These change orders include:

- Replace additional valves, piping, structural steel, and pipe supports that were too corroded to clean and recoat.
- Replace various small electrical and hydraulic components that were worn out or require upgrades.
- Change small diameter polymer piping from polyvinyl chloride to stainless steel for added strength and add isolation valves to improve usability and reduce clogging.
- Replace or relocate junction boxes and transmitters exposed to excessive water and sludge.
- Install a spray bar cleaning system on each BFP to replace the less effective portable cleaning system currently in use.

## **SUMMARY (Cont'd)**

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04075C01, Dewatering and Drying Belt Filter Press Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

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Since the Commission authorized the change order and restored the Executive Director's original \$400,000 delegated authority in March 2025, staff executed multiple change orders totaling \$399,000 to address minor changes across all 24 BFP's, including:

- Relocating disconnect switches out of the spray from the BFP's.
- Sealing the concrete of the new hydraulic containment curbs to protect against corrosive fluid.
- Replacing additional structural beams that were too corroded for reuse.
- Replacing scraper blade handles, adding polymer flushing lines, and installing additional hydraulic hoses.
- Adding drains to junction boxes within the spray zone of the BFP's.
- Purchasing additional overhaul parts for the 24<sup>th</sup> BFP.

The Commission has delegated to the Executive Director the authority to make changes to construction contracts up to \$400,000 or 10% of the original contract price, whichever is less. For this contract, a limit of \$400,000 prevails. The Executive Director has used \$399,000 of this authority, leaving a balance of \$1,000. The request to restore the Executive Director's authority is in case any additional construction changes beyond the remaining Executive Director's authority are necessary. Without this restored authority, work may need to stop while staff obtains necessary change order authority from the Commission.

## RESOLUTION

Restore the Executive Director's Original Delegated Authority, Contract J04075C01,  
Dewatering and Drying Belt Filter Press Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation  
Facility

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**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director's original delegated change order authority is restored on Contract J04075C01, Dewatering and Drying Belt Filter Press Overhauls at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility, with Doral Corporation.