



COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-022-2 **DATE INTRODUCED:** February 9, 2026

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment, with Brown and Caldwell (B&C) in an amount not to exceed \$392,761. B&C was the highest scoring proposer based on a qualifications-based selection method among three proposals received.

The District has produced Milorganite® since 1926 as a sustainable method to manage biosolids generated during wastewater treatment. Milorganite® is a commercially available fertilizer that meets regulatory requirements, supports sustainable agriculture, and generates ongoing revenue for the District.

The District produces biosolids as part of normal wastewater treatment operations. The District treats these materials through anaerobic digestion, which stabilizes the solids and produces biogas that the District uses for on-site electricity generation. The remaining material is processed into Milorganite® through dewatering, drying, and product classification. Air pollution control systems manage emissions to meet permit requirements, and the finished product is stored for distribution.

The District currently produces Milorganite® at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF) in the Dewatering and Drying (D&D) Facility. This facility has been operating since 1992. Many critical assets used in Milorganite® production are aging and require refurbishment or replacement to maintain reliable operations.

ATTACHMENTS: BACKGROUND KEY ISSUES RESOLUTION
FISCAL NOTE S/W/MBE OTHER _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment

To support continued production of this renewable resource and improve long-term system reliability, the District's 2050 Facilities Plan and Biosolids Advanced Facilities Plan recommend construction of a new D&D Facility at the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility (SSWRF). A second production location would provide partial redundancy, increase operational resilience, and allow refurbishment of the existing JIWRP D&D Facility without interrupting production.

In addition, the District's 2024 Energy Plan further supports development of a D&D Facility at SSWRF. Drying operations represent a significant energy demand. Locating a future drying facility at SSWRF would align this demand with the District's largest future internal energy producing source (biogas) and improve overall energy efficiency.

The District is undertaking a single, long-term capital project (S04040, Dewatering and Drying Facility) to plan, design, and construct a partially redundant Milorganite® production facility at SSWRF. Due to the complexity, scale, and technical requirements of the work, the District will deliver this project through multiple sequential phases over an extended period. The project will begin with planning, which includes Phase 1 – Dryer Technology Assessment and Phase 2 – Dryer Pilot/Demonstration Testing. This will be followed by subsequent phases for preliminary and final design engineering and construction. Each phase will include District staff project management activities and, as appropriate, separate contracts for engineering services, equipment procurement, or construction.

Proposed Contract S04040P01 supports the planning element of Project S04040 and will be performed in two phases, beginning with Phase 1 – Dryer Technology Assessment. This Commission request authorizes B&C to perform planning level evaluation of drying technologies and system configurations to identify viable options and establish the scope, approach, and feasibility of future pilot or demonstration testing. Phase 1 does not include pilot or demonstration testing, which will be performed under Phase 2.

Under Contract S04040P01, Phase 1, B&C will:

- Engage with manufacturers of thermal dryers and ancillary equipment to evaluate commercially available technologies.
- Support the District in developing a request for information to obtain dryer system specifications and performance data and assist with evaluation of manufacturer submittals.
- Recommend a shortlist of up to three dryer systems suitable for pilot and/or demonstration testing.
- Perform a location analysis to identify potential sites for pilot or demonstration testing.
- Prepare up to three pilot or demonstration test plans.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment

The Phase 1 contract duration is 60 weeks.

Following completion of Phase 1, the District plans to proceed with Phase 2, which will implement pilot or demonstration testing developed under Phase 1. The purpose of Phase 2 is to evaluate selected drying technologies and identify the technology that can most effectively and reliably produce Milorganite® that meets product quality, regulatory, safety, and performance requirements. Phase 2 includes the activities necessary to execute pilot or demonstration testing and develop a recommendation for drying technology.

To support Phase 2, staff anticipates requesting Commission authorization to issue a contract change order to B&C for pilot or demonstration testing engineering support services. Because the scope, cost, and schedule of Phase 2 depend on the results of Phase 1, the District cannot fully define Phase 2 in advance.

RESOLUTION

Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute Contract S04040P01, Planning Services, Dryer Technology Assessment, with Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$392,761.