



COMMISSION FILE NO: 25-011-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 13, 2025

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services, with Arcadis U.S., Inc., (Arcadis) in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. Arcadis was the highest scoring proposer, through a qualifications-based selection method, among three proposals received.

Over the past 20 years, the District has been implementing the Menomonee River Watercourse Management Plan (MRWMP). The plan has identified 372 structures in the floodplain, of which, after District constructed improvements (totaling \$277 Million to date), 168 structures remain. Improvements include the County Grounds floodwater storage facility; concrete channel removal, channel widening, and stream restoration projects on Underwood Creek and the Menomonee River; and a floodwall and levee system adjacent to Hart Park.

The Hart Park and Western Milwaukee levee/floodwall systems work together as a system and were constructed as a series of projects starting in 2007. The final levee/floodwall segment (Phase 2B) is under construction and estimated to be complete by the end of 2025. In addition, the District also owns the downstream Valley Park levee system. This levee system was designed in the late 1990's, constructed in 2001, and accredited by FEMA in 2006.

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

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COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services

One of the primary goals of the MRWMP is that structures protected by the levee system and currently in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulatory floodplain will no longer be in that floodplain. Once a structure is out of this regulatory floodplain, not only is the structure at reduced risk of flooding, but the owner of a structure will no longer have a requirement to obtain flood insurance. The owner can still obtain flood insurance, but, as flood risks are reduced, flood insurance rates will also be reduced.

The Cities of Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, under FEMA regulations, are the local agencies responsible for administering and managing local floodplains. For structures to be removed from the regulatory floodplain, the Cities, in conjunction with the District, must develop and submit applications and supporting technical documentation to FEMA that demonstrate the District's flood management efforts meet all regulatory requirements. The documentation package is called a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) application. Part of this documentation includes demonstration that the levees meet FEMA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requirements.

FEMA will not review the LOMR application until all construction is complete and all documentation, including the levee accreditation information, is submitted. FEMA will then review the LOMR, and revisions may be necessary before the LOMR ultimately goes into effect. Due to the complexity of the MRWMP, staff anticipates that after submitting the LOMR application, it will take three years before FEMA approves the LOMR application and the floodplain maps are formally updated.

The District previously contracted with Arcadis to evaluate and identify improvements and steps necessary to have the Hart Park and Western Milwaukee levee systems accredited by FEMA. That contract did not include design of the identified improvements nor the development of required levee system operational plans.

This proposed contract will perform design of identified improvements (except design of 68th Street Bridge improvements) and develop required operational plans.

In addition, it has been a quarter century since the Valley Park levee was designed. As a best practice, staff recommends reevaluating this levee to ensure it meets accreditation for the following reasons:

- Engineering design practices have advanced.
- Increased levee scrutiny from regulatory agencies since Hurricane Katrina.
- Rainfall patterns have changed.

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services

This contract includes the following contract scope:

Hart Park and Western Milwaukee Levees:

- Design approximately 1,200 feet of storm sewer varying in size from 12-inch to 84-inch in diameter.
- Design approximately 500 feet of storm drainage swale.
- Design utility relocation and pavement repair affected by the storm drainage improvements.

Valley Park Levee:

- Evaluate the Valley Park levee to determine if it complies with current accreditation standards.
- Identify any improvements necessary to achieve accreditation standards.

Entire levee system (Hart Park, Western Milwaukee, and Valley Park):

- Develop Levee System Plans:
 - Levee System Operations and Maintenance Plan.
 - Levee System Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The contract also includes on-call engineering services to support the levee system accreditation, if needed. Task orders will include:

- For Valley Park, design of improvements identified as part of the accreditation evaluation.
- Develop draft LOMR accreditation submittals.
- Develop standard specifications for typical construction techniques that often occur in/near levees.

After final design work is complete, the District will publicly bid and award multiple construction packages to complete necessary levee improvements.

Staff anticipates this contract to last three years.

RESOLUTION

Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute Contract TS-2702, 2025 Levee System Accreditation Design and On-Call Engineering Services, with Arcadis U.S., Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.