Item 9

COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-013-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 12, 2026

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

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Contract J06032D02 – Engineering Services, Geotechnical/Structural Analysis of Process Related, Timber Pile-Supported Structures at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to authorize the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract J06032D02, Engineering Services, Geotechnical/Structural Analysis of Process-Related, Timber Pile-Supported Structures at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF), with HNTB Corporation (HNTB) in an amount not to exceed $414,986. HNTB was the highest scoring proposer based on a qualifications-based selection method between two proposals received.

Construction of JIWRF began in the 1920's and has continued through multiple expansions and major modifications. Because the soil beneath the site cannot reliably support large structures, the facility was built on pile foundations – columns driven deep into the ground to transfer building loads to stronger soil or bedrock.

Pile foundations are essential to maintaining structural stability. If piles weaken or fail, buildings can settle unevenly, develop cracks, or experience equipment misalignment. In severe cases, structural safety can be compromised.

When JIWRF was originally constructed and expanded through the 1950's, timber piles were commonly used. Timber piles perform well when they remain fully buried in wet soil, but they can deteriorate if exposed to air or fluctuating groundwater levels. In later decades, new construction and major modifications used steel piles, which provide greater long-term strength and durability. Understanding the condition of both the older timber piles and the newer steel piles is important to ensure the continued safety and stability of the facility.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☒ **S/W/MBE** ☒ **OTHER** ☐ ____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

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SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Contract J06032D02, Engineering Services, Geotechnical/Structural Analysis of Process-Related, Timber Pile-Supported Structures at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

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Given their criticality, the District has performed some pile condition assessments with the most recent assessment performed in 2016. While this evaluation did not identify any immediate concerns, it did outline several long-term monitoring activities to help track the condition of the timber piles. The District has performed some of this monitoring, while other activities were deferred, as they required either significant financial resources or clearer implementation guidance.

Nine years have now passed, and many of the timber piles are nearly a century old. Because changes in their condition can occur slowly and without obvious warning, it is important to update the assessment and establish a more defined, long-term approach to monitoring and managing potential risks. Acting now allows the District to remain proactive and continue ensuring the safety and stability of the facility.

Under this contract, HNTB will conduct a followup assessment and develop a long-term monitoring and risk management plan. Specifically, they will:

- Provide project management.
- Perform a followup condition assessment of process-related, timber pile-supported structures and foundations, including completing a followup settlement survey, reviewing historical groundwater and survey data, and reviewing process tank inspections since the previous study.
- Complete a risk assessment with risk scoring on a structure-by-structure basis.
- Identify and evaluate alternatives and recommend near- and long-term actions for mitigating structural risk, including monitoring, testing, investigations, maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement.
- Develop a long-term plan with qualitative and quantitative action thresholds to initiate future steps to mitigate structural risks to timber pile-supported structures and foundations at JIWRF.

The duration of this contract is approximately 17 months.

RESOLUTION

Contract J06032D02, Engineering Services, Geotechnical/Structural Analysis of Process-Related, Timber Pile-Supported Structures at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

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RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute Contract J06032D02, Engineering Services, Geotechnical/Structural Analysis of Process-Related, Timber Pile-Supported Structures at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility, with HNTB Corporation in an amount not to exceed $414,986.