



ITEM ID: 2023-230-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: June 16, 2023

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: FY2023-24 Annual Authorization and Extend Period of Performance for Communications Network Towers and Related Leasing Agreements

Issue

The Authority requires communication tower lease agreements within the Authority's right-of-way and at strategic remote locations to support Train Control Systems, including Positive Train Control (PTC) and the Authority's communication network.

Recommendation

CONTRACTS, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED (5-0) the Board approve a total not-to-exceed annual amount of \$438,400 for FY2023-24 for the communications network towers and related leasing agreements listed in Attachment A, and to extend the terms to June 30, 2024, contingent upon approval of the FY2023-24 budget.

Strategic Commitment

The report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Modernizing Business Practices:** We will improve our operational efficiency through transparency, objective metrics and streamlined governance, reducing over-reliance on subsidy while bringing our system into a state of good repair and investing in the development of our employees. These communication tower lease agreements support the Authority's Metrolink system.

Background

The portion of the communications system that transports locally-generated fixed or mobile communication traffic to the Authority's Operations data centers is required to support the PTC system and other related railroad operational communication needs. The network consists of both commercial and Authority wired and wireless systems. The technology plan's goal is to mitigate over-reliance on commercial wireless communications carriers.

The wireless communication sites provide coverage and redundancy required to support Train Control and PTC needs that have been identified both within the Authority's right-of-way in the system and at mountain top sites. The combined mountain, building-top, and wayside sites have created a redundant, diverse, and highly reliable communication network to the Pomona Dispatch Operations Center. All agreements listed in Attachment A are for wireless communications towers and equipment supporting Train Control systems including PTC and the communications network.

Discussion

The Authority began using the annual Board approval process in 2013 to seek annual authority for five categories, including:

1. Software License, Maintenance, and Support Agreements (Licenses)
2. Original Equipment Manufacturers Agreements for Rolling Stock Components, Communication Signal Equipment, and Positive Train Control Requirements (OEMs)
3. Maintenance, Repair and Operations Agreements (MROs)
4. Administrative and Operating Services Agreements (Admin & Ops)
5. Communication Network Towers and Related Leasing Agreements (Towers)

As part of Annuals development process, staff assessed the services and agreements included in Attachment A to ensure that they were appropriate to maintain in the FY2023-24 Annuals.

The requested annual authority for the agreements included in Attachment A are based on estimated amounts developed by the respective Project Managers. The Project Managers, along with the Authority's Budget Team, have confirmed that the requested amounts are reflected in each Department's corresponding annual budget requested.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Requirements

These agreements are not federally funded; therefore the DBE program is not applicable.

Budget Impact

The amounts for which annual authority is requested are included in, and contingent upon, the adoption of the Proposed FY2023-24 Operating Budget (\$438,400).

Next Steps

Upon Board approval of these Annual items, and approval of the FY2023-24 budget, staff will execute the Annual items beginning on July 1, 2023.

Prepared by: Brian Jacob, Senior Contract and Compliance Administrator

Approved by: Arnold Hackett, Chief Financial Officer

Attachment(s)

[Attachment A - FY24 Annuals - Towers](#)