



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Legislation Text

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 19, 2016

COMMITTEE ON MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Mr. David St. Pierre, Executive Director

Authorization for payment to Marquette University for annual membership in the National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Water Equipment and Policy, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, Account 101-15000-612280

Dear Sir:

Authorization is requested to make payment to Marquette University for 2016 membership in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Water Equipment and Policy (I/UCRC WEP), in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. The membership period ends December 31, 2016.

The District became a member of the I/UCRC WEP in 2015. The I/UCRC WEP's primary goal is to encourage research and development of water, stormwater and wastewater oriented projects in an academic environment so that environmentally friendly and sustainable equipment and solutions are devised for groundwater, Lake Michigan, the Great Lakes, and international water bodies, as well as the water reclamation industry.

The I/UCRC WEP partners with universities and educational institutions that possess state-of-the-art water-related academic research facilities and industrial organizations and companies to create the next generation of products and processes for I/UCRC WEP members. Each member has one seat on the Industry Advisory Board for selecting future research projects and royalty-free access to intellectual property and student researchers. Currently the I/UCRC WEP is conducting research in the following areas that will produce beneficial results applicable to the District's operations:

1. Coupled titanium dioxide photocatalysis and filtration for simultaneous reduction of organic matter, viruses, and estrogenic compounds
2. Low-cost electrochemical phosphate sensor
3. Reducing chloride discharges to area waterways: a menu of options for policymakers
4. A comprehensive, quantitative decision-making tool for evaluating and improving the reliability, cybersecurity, and resiliency of water and wastewater infrastructures
5. Study to reduce cavitation damage in hydro-turbines
6. Phosphate-Free inorganic inhibitors for water supplies to mitigate lead release and corrosion

Marquette University, as the representative of I/UCRC WEP, the sole source of supply, has submitted pricing for the amount of the research commitment requested. Inasmuch as the research benefits are not available through any other source of supply, nothing would be gained by advertising for bids (Section 11.4 of the Purchasing Act).

It is hereby recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize payment by direct voucher, to Marquette University, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. Funds are available in Account 101-15000-612280.

Requested, Thomas C. Granato, Director of Monitoring and Research, TCG:HZ:AC:kaq

Recommended, Eileen McElligott, Administrative Services Manager

Respectfully Submitted, David Walsh, Chairman Committee on Monitoring and Research

Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for May 19, 2016