

# Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of December 12, 2018

TO: Honorable Board of Directors

FROM: Keane Sommers, P.E., Hydroelectric Manager 

DATE: December 5, 2018

SUBJECT: 2019 Dam Safety Engineering Services

---

---

## *HYDROELECTRIC*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Award a contract to Geo-Logic Associates for dam safety support services in 2019 in the amount of \$150,000 and authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents as recommended by the Water and Hydroelectric Operations Committee.

### **BACKGROUND:**

NID owns and operates 15 dams under the jurisdiction of the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). All of these dams, with the exception of Deer Creek Diversion and Loma Rica Airport, are also under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The dam safety regulatory environment has changed dramatically following the Oroville Spillway failure in 2017. That failure has caused both FERC and DSOD to change their approach to regulated entities requiring additional documentation, planning, and review.

Although NID maintains a strong dam safety program with a culture of compliance recognized by regulatory agencies, the District is not immune to the impacts of increased regulation. In an effort to address the increased requirements in a cost effective manner Staff has reached out to Geo-Logic Associates (GLA). GLA is a local, multidisciplinary consulting firm with expertise in geology, engineering, water resources, and environmental consulting. Following discussions with Staff, GLA has agreed to provide the services of a Staff Engineer to support the District's needs. Potential tasks may include:

- Preparing annual Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Reports (DSSMRs) for the FERC and the DSOD

- Updating Dam Safety Surveillance and Monitoring Plans (DSSMPs), Supporting Technical Information Documents (STIDs), and other dam safety documents
- Tracking and ensuring completion of outstanding items from NID/DSOD/FERC inspections including maintenance, operational corrections, site improvements, and repair construction
- Reviewing and completing various FERC-required dam safety program requirements including technical, security, public safety, Emergency Action Plan, and others
- Improving the NID Dam Safety e-Library
- Reviewing and summarizing comments on reports, design drawings, specifications, and other technical documents provided by specialty consultants
- Preparing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for consulting and construction contracting work
- Managing and designing various hydroelectric design and construction projects
- Performing other engineering-related functions as they arise

The employee assigned to the work by GLA has worked for the District previously as an intern in both the Engineering and Hydroelectric Departments. The junior level engineer will work under the direction of the District's Dam Safety Engineer and provides a way to complete the work in a cost effective manner.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Hydroelectric Department Budget includes \$175,000 for Dam Safety Support. The contract being awarded is structured such that it cannot exceed \$150,000 unless approved by the District. Costs under the contract will be paid on an hourly basis. No costs will be encumbered until the necessary 2019 budget authorization is received.

KSS