

**Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

Application for Approval of the Water Treatment Plant Valve Replacement Program - Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut : : **June 23, 2022**

**Final Decision, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law
of the Representative Policy Board**

A. The Applicant’s Request

On March 31, 2022, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA” or the “Applicant”), through its five-member Authority, submitted an application for approval of the Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant (“LGWTP”) Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut (“Application”). The Application is part of a multi-year program that has been created to ensure that valves at RWA treatment plants are in good working order, providing the ability to operate plants in the most efficient manner, and to allow plant staff to perform preventative maintenance in a safe manner. The project will include sequenced isolation of the filter influent trains and subsequent replacement of 16 critical 30-inch filter influent valves with motorized open and close actuators. Valves and actuators are located at water treatment plant facilities and are critical to the operation and control of the plants. The maximum anticipated project cost is \$2.69 million and includes a 15% contingency. The project costs are based on a conceptual design prepared in February 2022. In accordance with cost-estimating principles, the project costs have been adjusted for inflation.

The Application for approval of the project was filed pursuant to the statutory authority set forth in Section 19 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.

B. Participants

In addition to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) and the RWA, the district’s Office of Consumer Affairs (“OCA”) participated in this proceeding. The OCA is authorized by Section 15 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended, to act as the advocate for consumer interests in all matters that may affect water customers in the district.

C. Statutory Standard

Pursuant to the legislation cited in paragraph A above, the RWA is required to obtain approval from the RPB prior to commencing any project costing more than two million dollars to repair, improve, construct, reconstruct, enlarge or extend any of its properties or systems.

D. Notice and Procedures

Effective July 1, 2021, Senate Bill 1202, Section 163, permitted the RPB to hold the public hearing on the Application using electronic equipment or technology that facilitates real-time public access to meetings, including, but not limited to, telephonic, video or other conferencing platforms. Other procedural requirements were also met. On April 28, 2022, the RPB voted unanimously to accept the Application as complete and called a public hearing on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the office of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven and via remote access. The RPB designated Peter DeSantis (North Branford) to serve as Presiding Member at the public hearing.

As required by Section 10 of Special Act. No. 77-98, as amended by Public Act No. 02-85, the RPB published in the *New Haven Register* and the *Connecticut Post* the date, time and place of the public hearing to be held by the RPB to consider the Application for approval. The date of publication was May 2, 2022. A copy of this notice was filed with the Office of the Clerk

of each city and town within the District. The notice was posted on the RWA's website, including information about electronic participation for the meeting.

E. Public Hearing

At the public hearing on May 26, 2022, the Applicant provided sworn testimony from - Orville Kelly, the RWA's Manager of Design and Construction, and Jim Hill, the RWA's Director of Operations. These witnesses provided a presentation for the project that described the background, scope, site conditions, need, alternatives analysis, budget and schedule.

Members of the RPB asked questions of the Applicant with respect to valve design, useful life, valve failure and predictions, salvage, rehabilitation, and new technology.

The OCA provided a summary of his analysis of the Application as noted in his memorandum to the RPB dated May 19, 2022. He stated that Tighe & Bond recommended that the project not be included as a part of project bundling due to possible delays and the potential for increased costs. Attorney Donofrio concluded that the Application is necessary and appropriate and recommended approval of the Application for the reasons set forth in his memorandum to the RPB.

In addition to the applicants and OCA listed above, Mr. Bone from Tighe and Bond was present to answer any questions. No members of the public attended the public hearing.

F. Analysis

After considering all of the evidence presented, the RPB believes that the Application is necessary and advances the policies and goals of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, is included in the five-year plan of capital improvements, and is in the best interest of the RWA and its customers. The presentation at the public hearing reinforced the need for and importance of the project.

G. Conclusion

We therefore conclude that the Application for approval of a project for the LGWTP Project should be approved. Separately stated findings of fact and conclusions of law are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Exhibit A
Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

Application for Approval of the Water Treatment Plant Valve Replacement Program - Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut : : **June 23, 2022**

Findings of Fact

1. The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), through its five-member Authority, submitted an Application to the RPB for approval of the Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant (“LGWTP”) Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut (“Application”) on March 31, 2022.
2. The Application is part of a multi-year program that has been created to ensure that valves at RWA treatment plants are in good working order, providing the ability to operate plants in the most efficient manner, and to allow plant staff to perform preventative maintenance in a safe manner.
3. Assessing the condition of, and replacing as needed, valves that are critical to water treatment plant operations has been identified as a multi-year capital program that is key to the success of the RWA’s company-wide asset management program and its ability to deliver reliable, high quality drinking water to customers.
4. As an 80 MGD capacity facility, the LGWTP is the RWA’s largest and most critical water asset. If the facility went offline due to unexpected damage or failure, the impact to the water system and consumers could be significant.
5. Temporary provisions to isolate the filter influent flow is the most cost-effective solution to provide flow isolation required to install new valves.
6. Mechanical plugs can be reused. This will provide the RWA with the ability to temporarily isolate the filter influent flow in the future to perform repairs or inspections on the filter feed pipelines.

7. The project is included in the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Project budget. The LGWTP Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut will commence in FY 2022, with completion planned in FY 2024, at a total project cost of \$2.69 million.
8. The proposed project is consistent with, and advances the RWA policies and goals of the organization, provides public health benefits, and is in the public interest.
9. The OCA recommended approval of the Application.

Conclusions of Law

1. The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's ("RWA") application for approval of Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant ("LGWTP") Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut ("Application") on March 31, 2022, was filed pursuant to the statutory authority set forth in Section 19 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.
2. Notice of the public hearing to consider the Application and to allow interested persons, including water users and property owners within the district, to be heard was properly made on May 2, 2022, pursuant to Section 10 of Special Act No. 77-98, as amended.
3. Pursuant to Sections 10 and 19 of Special Act 77-98, as amended, the public hearing was held on May 26, 2022.
4. Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Representative Policy Board concludes that the RWA's application for the LGWTP Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut, meets all requirements for approval.