

Motion No. M2024-03

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority ratifying the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency and a contract with VECA Electric & Tech, LLC (VECA) not to exceed \$1,000,000 to remediate the de-electrification of the Pine Substation.

Background

The Board's Procurement and Delegated Authority policy, Resolution No. R2018-40, (superseded by R2023-30 effective January 1, 2024) Section 2.9, authorizes the CEO to make a written finding that an emergency exists and execute any contracts or make purchases necessary to respond to that emergency. The policy requires that the CEO request ratification of the finding of an emergency, and any emergency contracts that exceed the federal simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000 excluding taxes (now \$5,000,000 in Resolution No. R2023-30), at the next regular Board meeting. The policy also requires that the CEO keep the Board informed about the emergency and the progress of any contracts or purchases executed to address the emergency.

On November 29, 2023, the 26kV cable between Capitol Hill Substation and Pine Substation became de-energized. This was caused by a breaker opening due to a ground fault. This cable was providing redundancy for fire life safety systems in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel (DSTT). The loss of redundancy means in the situation of loss of 26kV power from the International District Substation, operation in the DSTT would need to cease. The age and condition of the system, which is currently in planning for future renewal, presents a high risk of failure for existing service without emergency action.

On December 21, 2023, former CEO Julie Timm made a written finding that declared an emergency and staff proceeded with renting a generator for mitigation of the fire life safety redundancy in the DSTT to protect passengers in the case of fire, prevent additional ongoing damage to the tunnel and equipment, and to maintain light-rail service.

Ms. Timm authorized a contract with VECA Electric & Tech, LLC (VECA) to mobilize on-site by December 29, 2023 for a) temporary power installation & verification, b) power shutdown, and c) disconnection/completion of temporary power. VECA was chosen based on immediate availability, its familiarity with connecting large backup generators to customer-owned switchgear, and knowledge of Sound Transit's safety and rail operations.

VECA's estimated cost to perform repair work from December 21 to approximately January 30 should not exceed \$1,000,000 (excluding taxes) and is consistent with Sound Transit's independent cost and price analysis of contractor and consultant proposals to respond to emergency conditions. This action would authorize the emergency contract with VECA since it exceeds the threshold for emergency contracts that existed when the contract was executed.

An existing contract with WSP, USA Inc. is also being utilized for professional engineering services with an estimated cost of \$50,000 to support the repair work.

The combined repair work is currently funded from State of Good Repair funding.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency and exercise of delegated contracting authority to remediate the de-electrification of the Pine Substation is ratified.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on January 25, 2024.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator