

October 27, 2024



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE IN DOHENY OCEAN DESALINATION PROJECT WITH AWARD OF THE PHASE 1 PROGRESSIVE DESIGN-BUILD-OPERATE-MAINTAIN CONTRACT**

Dana Point, CA, October 24, 2024 – In a significant advancement for regional water sustainability, the South Coast Water District (SCWD) is pleased to announce the unanimous decision by its Board to award the Progressive Design Build Operate Maintain (PDBOM) services contract for Phase 1 of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Doheny Project) to the team of J.R. Filanc Construction, Acciona Agua Corporation, and Hazen. This contract, valued at \$6,861,000, marks over a decade of meticulous planning and commitment to enhancing SCWD’s water supply portfolio, along with the water supply needs of the region.

The Doheny Project, when completed, will produce 5 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water, substantially enhancing the reliability and quality of water supply to SCWD’s service area. This initiative is a cornerstone of SCWD’s Integrated Water Resources Plan, aimed at diversifying and securing water resources, particularly during critical need periods, such as drought and natural disasters. SCWD is currently partners with Laguna Beach County Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District, reinforcing the regional collaboration and resource sharing benefits of the Doheny Project.

Phase 1 of the Doheny Project includes all necessary work to complete pre-construction planning and 60% design to develop a Guaranteed Maximum Price for full project implementation. Phase 2 efforts will include the final design, construction, commissioning, start-up, and long-term operations and maintenance of the facility.

SCWD’s thorough solicitation process began with a Request for Qualifications, followed by a Request for Proposals issued to shortlisted, highly qualified PDBOM teams, culminating in the Notice-of-Intent to award the contract to the team of J.R. Filanc Construction, Acciona Agua Corporation, and Hazen.

Director Bill Green expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts that have brought the Project to this pivotal stage, "This milestone could not have been reached without the hard work and persistence of many. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all involved, especially our partners at the Municipal Water District of Orange County who got the ball rolling, spearheaded by Karl Seckel, our staff, and past Board members who laid the groundwork for us to reach this milestone."

Deputy General Manager Marc Serna added, "This award is a significant milestone for the Project, our partners, and the public who will ultimately benefit from a new local supply of drinking water that will be sourced in an environmentally sustainable manner, and reliably available at all times."

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The [Doheny Ocean Desalination Project](#) will create a new, reliable, local, and drought-proof water supply that will also provide emergency water supplies should the delivery of imported water be disrupted due to earthquakes or other natural disasters. The facility's proposed location between Pacific Coast Highway and Stonehill Drive next to San Juan Creek is within 100 yards of existing regional water transmission lines. SCWD will build the facility on property that SCWD already owns, and the infrastructure is already in place with the [Joint Regional Water Supply System](#) to distribute desalinated water to SCWD customers and South Orange County, significantly reducing costs and construction impacts. The facility would have a capacity of up to 5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD).

*[South Coast Water District \(SCWD\)](#) provides potable water, recycled water, and wastewater services to approximately 40,000 residents, 1,000 businesses, and 2 million visitors per year in south Orange County, California. SCWD's service area, divided into five districts, includes the communities of Dana Point, South Laguna Beach, and areas of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. A five-member elected Board of Directors oversees SCWD's policymaking, financial stewardship, rate-setting, capital programs, and long-term planning.*