

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

Engineering and Operations Committee

April 15, 2026



Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Execute an Agreement with Geoscience for Preparation of the Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Geoscience Support Systems, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$86,871 for preparation of the Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program and allocate a 10 percent contingency of \$8,700.

OVERVIEW

Sweetwater Authority (Authority) relies on a combination of 13 groundwater wells— three freshwater wells in National City and ten brackish wells in Chula Vista— and treated surface water from Sweetwater Reservoir to serve approximately 200,000 customers across National City, western Chula Vista, Bonita, and Lincoln Acres. These groundwater wells are essential components of the Authority’s local supply portfolio, reducing dependence on imported water and supporting system reliability.

Many of the Authority’s wells are aging, exhibit declining performance, or require more consistent and proactive maintenance planning. Currently, the Authority does not have a standardized, system-wide rehabilitation and maintenance program. As a result, well maintenance is performed reactively, varies by site, and lacks the long-term planning tools needed to optimize production, extend asset life, and manage rehabilitation costs.

To address this need, staff issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a consultant with the hydrogeological expertise required to evaluate well conditions, develop preventative maintenance procedures, and establish a comprehensive program tailored to the Authority’s operational needs. Seven proposals were received, and Geoscience Support Systems, Inc. (Geoscience) earned the highest evaluation score based on its strong local hydrogeological experience, prior Authority work, and well-developed methodology for program development and field evaluation.

Authorizing this agreement will provide the Authority with consistent, technically sound framework for maintaining and rehabilitating its 13 wells, strengthening long-term groundwater reliability and supporting the Authority’s mission to provide a safe and reliable water supply.

Request for Proposals and Evaluation Process

On February 6, 2026, the Authority issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for development of the Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program (Attachment 1). Proposals were due on March 13, 2026, and seven proposals were received (Attachment 2).

A three-member Authority staff evaluation panel scored each proposal using four criteria (maximum 100 points):

- Completeness of proposal in addressing requested information (20 points)
- Qualifications and experience of the Consultant’s assigned personnel (25 points)
- Firm’s experience relevant to the type of project being considered, including past performance on Authority projects (30 points)
- Approach to complete tasks identified in the Scope of Services Section (25 points)

Submitted costs were not included as an evaluation criterion.

Summary of Proposals

Proposer	Average Score	Ranking	Cost*
Geoscience Support Systems, Inc.	93.7	1	\$86,871
Richard C. Slade & Associates	77.7	2	\$374,586
Daniel B. Stephen & Associates	76.7	3	\$119,812
Kyle Groundwater	76	4	\$118,815
Wood Rogers, Inc.	73.7	5	\$144,080
Hydro-Geologic Solutions	70.3	6	\$161,188
Thomas Harder Company	69.3	7	\$221,200

* Submitted costs were not considered as part of selection criteria

Geoscience received the highest overall score (93.7) and demonstrated:

- Extensive local hydrogeologic knowledge
- Strong expertise in groundwater modeling and basin analysis
- Directly relevant experience developing well maintenance programs for multiple Southern California water agencies
- A well-developed, technically sound approach to program development and site evaluation
- Successful prior engagement on Authority projects

A 10 percent contingency is recommended to accommodate unforeseen project needs or additional work effort.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2025-26 Budget includes \$1,300,000 for the Well Rehabilitation Program, with \$789,311 currently available.

Well Rehabilitation Program (20264005)	
Total project budget	\$1,300,000
Less previously approved budget transfers:	
San Diego Formation Well 11 Pump Procurement and Installation Project	167,276
National City Well 3 Rehabilitation Project Change Orders No. 1 & 2 and Contingency	139,193
SDF Well-6 Pump System Rehab	<u>204,220</u>
Available project budget balance	\$789,311
Less proposed Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program Project and 10% contingency	<u>95,571</u>
Remaining project budget balance	\$693,740

OPTIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Geoscience Support Systems, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$86,871 for preparation of the Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program and allocate a 10 percent contingency of \$8,700.
2. Other direction as determined by the Governing Board.

Staff Contact:

Carlos Quintero, P.E., General Manager

Xochitl Aranda, P.E., Director of Engineering and Operations

Kyehee (Kay) Kim, Ph.D., P.E., Engineering Manager, Water Resources and Environmental

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Attachments

1. RFP- Development of the Well Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program
2. Proposals from All Proposers
3. Staff Presentation

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Goal 2: System and Water Supply Reliability (SR) – Achieve an uninterrupted, long-term water supply through investment, maintenance, innovation and developing local water resources.

- Objective SR2: Cost-effectively maintain facilities and infrastructure to optimize their useful life and performance.
 - o Task 002.200: Competitively select on-call consultants to assist with well/pump maintenance program.

Past Board Action

June 11, 2025	The Governing Board adopted Resolution 25-04, Approving the FY 2025-26 Budget.
---------------	--