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Board of Water Commissioners
October 14, 2021 Board Meeting

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject

Authorize the General Manager to execute an Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Corporation and to sign the subsequent Server and Cloud Enrollment and Product Selection Forms for purposes of providing cloud-based computing solutions through Microsoft Azure.

Executive Summary

Geographic Information System (GIS) creates, maintains, identifies, analyzes, and maps assets within our water, sewer, and reclaimed water systems. Historically, GIS data has been managed through physical on-site servers; however, these servers have reached end of life and face compatibility issues with the latest releases of GIS software applications. Migrating to cloud-based computing using Microsoft Azure eliminates the need to procure physical servers and ensures that the latest updates and security patches are automatically installed through Microsoft with increased security and threat protection. A cloud solution can reduce computing costs by 30% and decrease the burden on IT staff. Furthermore, it provides staff the opportunity to interact with GIS data from any device, even when working remotely in the field. This will enhance our communication, efficiency, and decision making.

Upon authorization from the Board to enter into an Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft, staff will procure the required licensing for the Department to initiate cloud server configuration, test the GIS environment / applications systems, and finally migrate users to Microsoft Azure.

Recommendation

Authorize the General Manager to execute an Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Corporation and to sign the subsequent Server and Cloud Enrollment and Product Selection Forms for purposes of providing cloud-based computing solutions through Microsoft Azure.

Fiscal Impact: The cost to the Water Fund will be incurred in FY 22 in the form of annual computing fees with Microsoft Corporation. Costs will not exceed $50,000, amounting to a 30% reduction in GIS server costs. This expense will be covered by existing Water Fund balance.

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Robert J. Verceles
Director of Engineering/Chief Engineer

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Christopher J. Garner
General Manager