



Meeting: **Reservoir Committee & Authority Board Agenda
Item 2.4**

October 16, 2026

Subject: **Accept Recommended Firms for Underwriting Services**

Requested Action:

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approve selection of senior manager and co-managers for the Sites Authority's initial issuance of short-term notes.

Detailed Description/Background:

On August 25, 2025, the Authority issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) soliciting firms interested in providing interim/short-term financing for phase 3/4/5 of the Project. Thirteen of the fourteen statements of qualification were shortlisted by the Board on October 17, 2025. Recently, all these firms were invited to submit proposals for the selection of one or more for securing the 2027 Short Term Notes. Twelve proposals were submitted by the deadline and were evaluated for selection.

The responses were evaluated by a selection committee, including bond and disclosure counsel, the Authority's independent registered municipal advisor, and the Authority's finance manager and staff. The firms were ranked based on the following selection criteria:

- Proposed approach to structuring and other ideas
- Qualifications and experience of firm and key personnel
- Submittal quality, organization and completeness
- Fees (firms were first ranked on the basis of the first three criteria, with fees as a secondary consideration)

Staff recommends the Board and Reservoir Committee approve the following underwriting team:

- JP Morgan (senior manager)
- Bank of America (co-manager)
- Loop Capital (co-manager)
- Wells Fargo (co-manager)

The recommended team consists of firms that bring experienced utility bankers and underwriters who will help ensure the Authority achieves a successful, competitive sale. Each of the firm's proposal included thoughtful approaches to marketing, ratings and the sale process, and demonstrated understanding of the Authority and its Participants. The selected team of underwriters will also help in the development of the bond documents and other needed work to prepare for the initial offering. The

team consists of firms that have sufficient capital to support the sale and underwrite any unsold Notes.

As a reminder, the Authority plans to offer tax-exempt notes maturing in five years or less (the “2027 Notes”) that will provide up to approximately \$500 million of tax-exempt interim funding. The \$500 million corresponds with the total amount of Participant expenditures expected to occur prior to the Resolution to Construct that is described in Section 3.2.2 of the Benefits & Obligations Contract. Per the adopted Resolution to Offer Capacity, the notes are to be prepared for execution by end of Q1 2027.

Next Steps:

October 2026 – March 2027: Draft bond documents (e.g., Preliminary Official Statement, Bond Purchase Agreement, Resolution approving sale, etc.)

March/April 2027: Receive ratings, Board and Reservoir Committee approve bond documents and sale of notes

June/July 2027: Note pricing and sale, receive proceeds

Prior Action:

August 2026: Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorize issuance of the Request for Proposals for underwriting services for the proposed Short-Term Notes to the 13 firms in the Authority’s underwriting pool to be secured in 2027 after initiation of Phase 3/4/5.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

There are sufficient funds within the approved FY26 Budget to cover the costs of securing underwriting services.

Staff Contact:

Shayleen O’Connell / Brian Thomas

Primary Service Provider:

Stradling, Montague DeRose

Attachments:

None