

ECUA GENERAL RESOLUTION NO. GR20-38

A GENERAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM CIP PROJECT RW922 FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW COMBINED WATER METER REGISTERS/METER INTERFACE UNITS FROM SUNSTATE METER AND SUPPLY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY:

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2020, the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (hereinafter "ECUA") Board approved a budget of \$2,000,000 for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Number RW922 (Meter Register Replacement) as part of the budget for fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, ECUA uses an automated meter reading (AMR) meter assembly, consisting of the water meter, the register, the meter interface unit (MIU), and an antenna, all manufactured by the Neptune Technology Group; and

WHEREAS, Sunstate Meter and Supply is the only distributor authorized to sell Neptune AMR meter assemblies and replacement parts to ECUA, and

WHEREAS, Neptune has integrated the register and MIU into a single, waterproofed unit with a more reliable battery and no wires to splice together;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority:

SECTION 1. ECUA hereby authorizes the use of up to \$2,000,000 of the available funds from RW922 to purchase Neptune combined register/MIU units from Sunstate Meter and Supply at a cost of \$129 per unit; and

SECTION 2. This General Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Approved as to form:

ECUA General Counsel

Adopted on:

ATTEST:

Amanda Miller, Administrative Coordinator

Lois Benson, Board Chairman

Date: September 22, 2020
Account Number:
Type of Resolution: General Resolution

EXPLANATION TO ECUA BOARD

Originating Department: Regional Services

REMARKS: ECUA began the transition to an automated meter reading (AMR) system in 2006, which allows a meter reader to collect readings from a passing vehicle instead of reading each individual meter visually. The AMR assembly consists of the water meter, the register that records the volume of water used by the customer, the meter interface unit (MIU) that transmits the reading to the meter reader, and an antenna. For the first versions of the assembly purchased by ECUA, the MIU was a separate box connected by wires to the register and the antenna. Some common problems with these early models included: poor performance of the batteries, loose connections of the wires, and poor waterproofing to protect the equipment from water that seeped into the meter box. Neptune has integrated the register and MIU into a single, waterproofed unit with a more reliable battery and no wires to splice together.

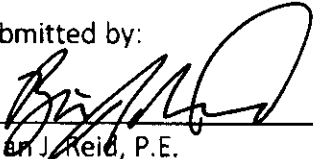
When the old AMR meter assemblies fail, the Regional Services Department must frequently replace the registers and MIUs. If these units are not replaced in a timely manner, then the reading must be collected visually, which is time-consuming and not feasible with the limited number of meter readers, or the reading must be estimated, which results in confusion and dissatisfaction for the customer.

ECUA's AMR system is manufactured and supported by the Neptune Technology Group. The system includes the AMR meter assembly, the meter reading devices, and the software used to manage the readings so that customers can be billed for their usage. The only authorized distributor of Neptune AMR meter assemblies in this region for ECUA is Sunstate Meter and Supply.

By the end of fiscal year 2020, Regional Services will have received around 15,000 work orders to repair AMR meter assemblies, which is consistent with prior years. The material cost of a new combined register/MIU is \$129. The \$2,000,000 approved by the Board will

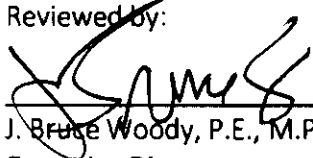
provide sufficient funds to purchase the number of registers required to complete the assigned work orders for this fiscal year.

Submitted by:



Brian J. Reid, P.E.
Director of Regional Services
969-6640

Reviewed by:



J. Bruce Woody, P.E., M.P.A.
Executive Director