



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Morris, Schlossberg, and Barofsky
FROM: Lisa Krentz, Chief Electric Operations Officer
DATE: March 3, 2026
SUBJECT: Carmen-Smith License Deployment Update
OBJECTIVE: Information in support of Consent Item: Jacobs dba CH2M Hill Carmen-Smith Engineering Services March 3, 2026

Issue

This information is provided in support of Consent Item Jacobs dba CH2M Hill Carmen-Smith Engineering Services March 3, 2026, which requests approval of an amendment to the Jacobs contract to increase funding for engineering services associated with the design of projects required under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating license for the Carmen-Smith Project.

Background

The FERC license for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project was issued in 2019 and includes a wide-ranging set of obligations within seven management plans. The Aquatics Management Plan (AMP) contains requirements for several fish passage and habitat projects, along with ongoing operational and biological conditions. The AMP required that permanent upstream fish passage, via a trap and haul system, and downstream fish passage, via the existing Trail Bridge Powerhouse spillway, be constructed by May of 2022.

In 2021, sinkholes in Trail Bridge Reservoir were identified as actively conveying water, raising urgent dam safety concerns. Under the direction of FERC's Division of Dam Safety, EWEB immediately implemented measures to investigate the cause, enhance monitoring, and reduce the risk of an uncontrolled release.

The Trail Bridge Sinkhole Investigation, completed in 2025, concluded that the sinkholes do not pose an immediate threat to the dam; however, they will require ongoing monitoring and risk-reduction measures. As a result, any projects affecting Trail Bridge Dam or the water surface elevation of Trail Bridge Reservoir are subject to extensive dam safety analysis and regulatory review.

Prior to discovery of the sinkholes, EWEB had advanced the design of the fish passage facilities to approximately 90 percent. Because the proposed facilities are located at the dam, EWEB paused final design due to constructability and dam safety considerations. Design efforts were reinitiated in 2025 following the favorable findings of the sinkhole investigation.

Two additional projects are currently in the design or construction phase under Jacobs. The Smith Spillway is being expanded to accommodate the probable maximum flood and to incorporate a flow release system. This system will enable EWEB to meet license requirements for providing water flows to support aquatic habitat in the Smith Bypass Reach. Also currently under construction is the Carmen Load Bank. The Load Bank will allow EWEB to continue operating the Carmen Powerhouse when the Carmen Transmission Line is out of service, thereby avoiding the release of potentially damaging high flows into the Smith Bypass Reach.

In 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (collectively, the Agencies) withdrew from the Carmen-Smith Settlement Agreement, citing noncompliance with the three-year deadline for construction of fish passage facilities. The Agencies continued to participate in meetings on a limited basis while EWEB completed the sinkhole investigation and advanced projects that could proceed independently.

In late 2024 and throughout 2025, EWEB, USFWS, and NMFS engaged in a mediated process to address concerns regarding hydraulics at the entrance to the license required trap-and-haul facility. That process resulted in agreement on a conceptual framework to relocate the trap-and-haul entrance several hundred feet downstream and establish a revised construction schedule for both upstream and downstream fish passage.

Jacobs is currently developing a conceptual-level design for the relocated upstream passage facility. Staff are also coordinating with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to confirm their support for the conceptual design. EWEB plans to submit a license amendment application to FERC in 2026 to codify the changes.

While fish passage has been delayed, many projects benefiting fish, wildlife, and recreationists have already been completed at Carmen-Smith. Examples include:

- The fully refurbished Carmen Powerhouse was returned to service and released to EWEB power traders in February 2026.
- All recreation areas within the Project have been rebuilt and are scheduled to reopen to the public in May 2026.
- Aquatic habitat improvements have been completed in all three reservoirs, the spawning channel, Deer Creek, and Phase I of the Lower Carmen Bypass Reach.
- Wildlife and native plant habitat enhancements have been established along the Carmen Transmission Line corridor and within the Leaburg Forest.

Discussion

The Jacobs contract was approved in 2019 and includes design and construction support for the fish passage and water conveyance facilities required under the license. Under the terms of the contract, Staff must seek Board approval when initiating a new design task exceeding \$500,000 or when cumulative authorized work surpasses 25% of the Board's previously approved contract amount.

Consent Calendar item Jacobs dba CH2M Hill Carmen-Smith Engineering Services March 3, 2026 requests authorization to increase the contract by \$8.15 million, representing a

44.6% increase over the previously approved amount. Of this total, approximately \$4.55 million (24.8%) has already been committed to reinitiate and advance upstream and downstream fish passage efforts and to continue design and construction of the Load Bank. The remaining \$3.6 million (19.7%) is allocated for planned work in 2026 and 2027, including design of the relocated upstream fish passage facility, expansion of the Smith Spillway, support for the spillway inspection at Carmen Diversion, and required Dam Safety reviews prior to construction approval for these projects.

Staff will update the estimated costs to design and construct the remaining capital projects as part of the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan update in July and will provide the Board with a more comprehensive Carmen-Smith License Fulfillment Program update in late 2026.

Recommendation

Management recommends approval of Consent Item Jacobs dba CH2M Hill Carmen-Smith Engineering Services March 3, 2026, increasing the authorized contract amount for Jacobs, Inc. by \$8,150,000 to a total of \$26,430,000.

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve additional funds for the agreement with **Jacobs dba CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc.** for **Carmen-Smith Fish Passage Facilities Engineering and Related Services.**

Board Meeting Date: March 3, 2026
Project Name/Contract #: Carmen-Smith Fish Passage Facilities, Engineering Svcs 080-2018
Manager:
Executive Officer: Lisa Krentz Ext. 7450

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$10,000,000
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$8,280,000 (multiple approvals since 2019)
Spend over last approval: \$4,550,000 (24.8% in contract/task order amendments)
Amount this Request: \$8,150,000 (includes spend over last approval)
% Increase over last approval: 44.6%
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$26,430,000**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Request for Proposals
If applicable, basis for exemption: NA
Term of Agreement: April 5, 2019 to December 31, 2028
Option to Renew? No
Approval for purchases "as needed": Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): 3 Proposals (Qualifications Based)
Selection Basis: Qualifications Based Selection

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Board is being asked to approve funds to increase the Professional Services Agreement with Jacobs Engineering dba CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc. Amendment 9 includes professional engineering design and support services to complete the design of the relocated Trap and Haul facility at Trail Bridge Dam (change from existing license requirement), expansion of the Smith Spillway, and the flow release system at Carmen Diversion. The 2019 Carmen-Smith FERC operating license requires the construction of a Trap and Haul facility to move fish above Trail Bridge Dam, providing access to recently completed aquatic habitat in Trail Bridge Reservoir and the Smith and McKenzie River reaches above the dam. Complex hydraulics immediately below the dam have necessitated designing a Trap and Haul facility several hundred feet downstream of the recently designed facility at the base of the dam, resulting in a new design effort. Expansion of the Smith Spillway is required to increase spillway capacity for dam safety and provide flows for aquatic habitat. Similar work at Carmen Diversion spillway will also provide flows for aquatic habitat and address dam safety concerns.

Contracted Goods or Services

Additional design services are required to support implementation of license required infrastructure, including

dam safety improvements. Work includes incorporating mandated changes and additions to designs and specifications, additional temporary work (e.g. cofferdams) to facilitate construction, collection of field data to support final project designs, required stability and structural analysis, preparing required reports, developing inspection plans, and supporting the regulatory review and approval processes.

Purchasing Process

In December 2018, in accordance with Oregon public procurement rules, EWEB initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) using the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process for engineering services for upstream and downstream fish passage at Trail Bridge Dam. Proposals were received from Jacobs of Corvallis, OR, McMillen-Jacobs Associates of Boise, ID, and R2 Resource Consultants of Redmond, WA. All firms were highly qualified. Jacobs, and McMillen Jacobs Associates were shortlisted for interviews. After interviews were conducted, Jacobs was selected as the most qualified consultant, consistent with QBS criteria.

The contract structure is that of a master services agreement and subsequent, individually negotiated, task orders. Identified major work tasks (Task Orders) include:

1. Upstream Passage - Design of the relocated entrance and tailrace barrier is in the preliminary phase, trap and transport components are 90% complete.
2. Downstream Passage design – Improvements to the existing radial gate and spillway are 90% design complete.
3. Load Bank Design – Controls design is the only remaining design work.
4. Spawning Channel Structural Improvements design – Complete.
5. Smith Spillway Expansion and Flow Release Design - 90% design complete.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approved	Project Duration (Start to Close)	Original Amount	Approved/Amended Amount to Date (Total)	Reason Code
24-044-Q	Leaburg WALTERVILLE 2023 DSSMR Support	NA	2-22-24 to 3-31-24	\$71,705	\$99,950	AW
21-093-Q	Disinfection System As-Built Drawing Work	NA	6-8-21 to 9-15-21	\$10,000	\$10,000	
20-156-PSC	Control Systems Support	NA	10-2-20 to 10-2-25	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Reason Code: AM = Additional Materials, AW = Additional Work, EW= Emergency Work, SD = Staff Directed, UC = Unforeseen Conditions, Other						

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve additional funds to the contract with Jacobs dba CH2M Hill for Carmen-Smith engineering design services. The 2026 Capital budget for the Carmen-Smith License Deployment Department includes \$5.7 million for the studies, investigations and designs of the Trap & Haul Project, the Smith Spillway Expansion, and work at the Carmen Diversion Spillway. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Electric Capital, Type 2, Carmen-Smith License Deployment.