

# PROJECT COSTING MANUAL

Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati  
Wastewater Engineering Division Standard

Revision No. 3.1



April 2025

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## Record of Revision

An expanded Record of Revision for changes is provided in Appendix D

Revision No.	Date	Description
0	May 2021	Initial issue.
1	February 2023	Major revision to simplify format and align the guidance with the PDS. Converted formula derivations into tables. Added guidance for progressive DB projects.
2	February 2024	Annual review/refresh per feedback from MSD and Hamilton County. Changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised calculation of indirect costs</li><li>• Removed capitalized interest cost</li><li>• Updated DBB and PDB PDS models</li><li>• Updated project cost estimate summary tables (Appendix C)</li><li>• Updated OMB and inflation rates in Section 3</li></ul>
3	April 2025	Annual review/refresh per feedback from MSD and Hamilton County. Changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added / updated figures and tables</li><li>• Revised escalation guidance</li><li>• Updated PDS modules</li><li>• Revised / clarified PDB definitions</li></ul>
3.1	April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reverted 2023\$ conversion guidance to match Revision 2</li><li>• Added an expanded Record of Revision, starting with Revision 3</li></ul>

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## **1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Project Costing Manual (PCM) has been assembled as a Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) Wastewater Engineering (WWE) Division Standard to serve as a single source of guidance for MSD staff and consultants. It replaced the Financial Analysis Manual (FAM) dated June 2013 and the related Estimating Guidelines document dated January 2009. The PCM provides guidance on the development of project cost estimates for Design-Bid-Build (DBB) projects and Progressive Design-Build (PDB) projects.

The purpose of the PCM is to ensure that all project estimates developed for MSD capital projects are prepared consistently and accurately. MSD staff and / or consultants are expected to use the cost estimate templates for DBB and PDB projects included in Appendix B to ensure that markups are applied to project estimates in a uniform manner across MSD's capital program. This standardization is intended to produce not only more accurate estimates, but also greater confidence in those estimates. While professional judgment and due diligence are critical to the proper development of any cost estimate, the standards and standard approaches established in this document should be used as the basis for all estimates created by MSD staff and consultants. Deviations from this standard must be coordinated with the project team and approved in writing by the MSD Standards Committee.

An effective project estimate can be used to establish a realistic project budget for cost monitoring and progress measurement throughout a project's lifecycle. The purpose of this document is to establish standard definitions and processes necessary to estimate various components of a project's cost. It is intended that this PCM be reviewed periodically and updated for review and approval by the MSD Standards Committee.

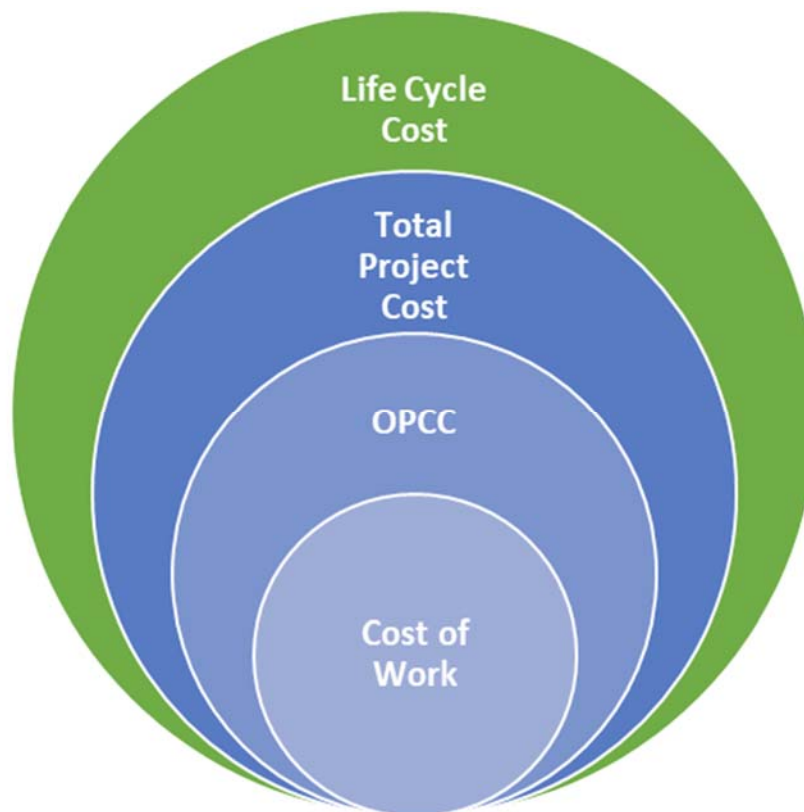
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## 2. PROJECT COST ESTIMATING

A cost estimate is a prediction of the probable costs of a project or effort for a given and documented scope, a defined location, and point of time in the future. MSD's approach is largely based on and adapted from practices recommended by the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE).

To understand the relationship between various project cost estimating documents, it is necessary to clearly define the key components of the project cost estimate as shown in Figure 2-1 below:

- **Cost of Work:** Costs for labor, material, equipment, and other costs to create the asset.
- **Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC):** Cost of Work plus mark-ups that are included in the contractor's bid estimate for the project to be completed. This is also sometimes referred to as Total Construction Cost, or Engineer's Estimate.
- **Total Project Cost:** OPCC plus the addition of the indirect costs necessary to complete the construction and startup of an asset. These indirect costs include Planning and Design professional services and certain pre-construction and construction professional services performed by a consultant, Right of Way (ROW) acquisition costs, and other Miscellaneous expenses.
- **Life Cycle Cost:** Total Project Cost plus the operation and maintenance costs over the life of the asset. Life Cycle Costs are usually reported in terms of their present value. Present Value is used to compare alternatives over the life of the assets.



**Figure 2-1: Project Cost Estimate – Key Components**



The following section provides specific guidance and explanation on how MSD project cost estimates are organized and developed. This is aligned with MSD's Program Delivery System (PDS) which defines the required milestone deliverables for projects along their lifecycle, including required cost estimates. MSD has developed PDS modules for traditional design-bid-build and progressive design-build project delivery approaches. Both delivery methods are addressed in this PCM.

## **2.1. Estimating Methods**

In practice, estimating methodologies fall into two broad categories, conceptual and deterministic. As the level of project definition increases, estimating methodology tends to progress from conceptual methods to deterministic methods, as described below.

Conceptual estimating methods use independent variables that are generally something other than a direct measure of the units of the item being measured. They usually involve simple or complex modeling based on conferred or statistical relationships between costs and other, typically design-related, parameters. Often the cost estimating relationships used in conceptual estimating methods are subject to conjecture. The typical conceptual methods used are:

- **Capacity Factor Method:** A capacity factored estimate is one in which the cost of a new facility is derived from the cost of a similar facility with known (but usually different) capacity. This method relies on the non-linear relationship between capacity and cost.
- **Ratio or Factor Methods:** Ratio or factored estimating methods are used in situations where the total cost of an item or facility can be reliably estimated from the cost of a primary component. For example, these methods are commonly used when estimating the cost of specialized process equipment that makes up a significant portion of the construction cost.
- **Parametric Method:** A parametric model is a mathematical representation of cost relationships that provides a logical and predictable correlation between the physical or functional characteristics of a project and its resultant cost. A parametric estimate is developed using cost estimating relationships and other estimating functions that provide logical and repeatable relationships between independent variables, such as design parameters or physical characteristics, and the dependent variable, cost.

Conceptual cost estimating is typically performed during the Capital and Project Planning phase of the project delivery cycle, and early in the Design phase (up to 30% Design). During Capital Planning, where an order of magnitude estimate is developed prior to the Project Planning phase of a project, estimators must rely on industry standards and/or cost data for similar types of projects, facilities, or processes constructed in the past. Examples of conceptual methods traditionally used at this juncture are capacity factor or ratio factor methods. For the Project Planning phase and early portions of the design phase, project definition has progressed, and conceptual estimating methods tend more toward parametric methods.

Deterministic cost estimating methods use independent variables that are direct measures of the item being estimated, such as straightforward counts or measures of items multiplied by known unit costs. Deterministic estimating methods rely on a high degree of precision and a determination of quantities, pricing, and a complete scope definition.

Deterministic cost estimating is typically performed during the later stages of the design phase (60%, 90% and Final Design). At the 60% Design stage, however, deterministic methods are generally combined with conceptual methods to produce the estimate. In general, multiple methodologies are often used to account for varying degrees of scope definition for different project elements at various project stages. Estimators must select the most appropriate and advanced estimating methodologies based on scope definition and availability of historical cost data and parametric models.

## **2.2. Estimate Classification**

Estimate classification is commonly used to indicate the overall maturity and quality of estimates. Most organizations will use some form of classification system to identify and categorize the various types of project estimates that they may prepare during the life cycle of a project. The classification described in this guide is based on the framework developed by AACE. Their “Cost Estimate Classification System (Recommended Practice No. 18R-97)” provides generic guidelines for the general principles of estimate classification that may be applied across a wide variety of industries.

These guidelines have been adapted to meet the specific needs of MSD. Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 below show the MSD Estimate Classification System as applied to traditional design-bid-build (DBB) and progressive design-build (PDB) projects. Like the AACE framework, MSD uses a multi-level classification system to describe estimates developed for different project stages. Class 5 cost estimates refer to conceptual estimates when a project is first conceived, and very little project information has been determined. As the project moves through the five classes, the number of unknowns in a project diminishes and the Class number decreases. An estimate may be classified as Class 1 when the project has reached 100% Design and is ready for bidding.

As defined above, a cost estimate is the most probable cost within a range of potential outcomes. AACE Recommended Practice 40R-08 (Contingency Estimating – General Principles) explains that an estimate’s accuracy is dependent on the correct amount of contingency being included. As described later in this document, contingency is an amount added to an estimate to allow for incomplete design elements, conditions, or events for which the effect is uncertain. The cost estimating process assumes successive cost estimates will be prepared beginning with the lowest level of project definition (produced at the earliest stages of the project’s lifecycle) through the highest level of project definition (produced at the latest stages of the project’s lifecycle). As the number of unknowns decreases (reflection of probabilistic assessment of uncertainties and risks), contingency amounts and the estimate’s accuracy range will get smaller. The Expected Accuracy Range column in Table 2-1 shows that a Class 1 estimate has a much narrower band of expected results than a Class 5 estimate.

**Table 2-1: Estimate Classification System for DBB Projects**

MSD Phase/ Stage	Project Definition	Background Information Used	Estimating Method	Class	Expected Accuracy Range
Capital Planning	1-5%	Few or no design parameters: estimate based on historical data	Conceptual	5	L: -20% to - 50% H: +30% to +100%
Project Planning (BCE or CDR)	5-15%	Based on project narrative and recommendations	Conceptual	4	L: -15% to - 30% H: +20% to +50%
30% Design	15-40%	Rudimentary design and estimator experience with known parameters needed to develop the estimate	Conceptual	3	L: -10% to - 20% H: +10% to +30%
60% Design	40-60%	Design development documents. Estimator experience needed to determine appropriate estimating method.	Combination: Conceptual & Deterministic	2	L: -10% to - 20% H: +10% to +30%
90% Design	60-90%	Detailed estimating data from plans and specifications	Deterministic	1	L: -5% to - 15% H: +5% to +20%
Final Design	90-100%	Detailed documentation ready for bid submittal	Deterministic	1	L: -3% to - 10% H: +3% to +15%

**Table 2-2: Estimate Classification System for PDB Projects**

MSD Phase/ Stage	Project Definition	Background Information Used	Estimating Method	Class	Expected Accuracy Range
Capital Planning	1-5%	Few or no design parameters: estimate based on historical data: scope definition is limited to an understanding of the problem, a delineation of project limits, and some limited specificity of project components	Conceptual	5	L: -20% to -50% H: +30% to +100%
Project Planning (OA BCE)	5-10%	Based on project narrative and recommendations	Conceptual	5	L: -20% to -50% H: +30% to +100%
Design - (Design-Builder BODR)	10-15%	Based on project narrative and recommendations; performance criteria requirements	Conceptual	4	L: -15% to -30% H: +20% to +50%
30% Design	15-40%	Rudimentary design and estimator experience with known parameters needed to develop the estimate	Combination: Conceptual & Deterministic	3	L: -10% to -20% H: +10% to +30%
60% Design	40-60%	Design development documents. Estimator experience needed to determine appropriate estimating method.	Combination: Conceptual & Deterministic	2	L: -5% to -15% H: +5% to +20%
90% Design	60-90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Final Design	90-100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 2.3. Organization of Estimates

The organization of estimates into discrete work items is essential to the perception and subsequent analysis of estimates. MSD estimates should be organized by using the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) with the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) classification system encoded for each estimate line item. This allows for a schedule of values to be generated from the WBS.

Each MSD Project Cost Estimate Summary shall be organized using a predetermined WBS. The WBS provides a systematic organization for all the costs in the estimate and is typically unique to a particular type of project. For example, a treatment plant may have a WBS structured around the plant process units, while a conveyance project may be organized by each defined reach or segment. A consistently applied WBS from the beginning of a project will facilitate a comparison of costs for each estimate submittal. Under each WBS heading, individual estimate line items will be coded using the CSI

Masterformat 2016. The same estimate can then be presented in estimate reports that are either sorted in the WBS or the CSI classification system.

## **2.4. Schedule of Values**

An estimate shall be established as a control baseline as early as possible in the design process. Project Funding and Budget amounts rely upon an estimate prepared using all the design and cost information available at the time of preparation. Although an estimate will be refined using conceptual and deterministic techniques as a project progresses, all parties must be cognizant of the current estimates for their activities and for the execution of their work. Once the design process commences, project estimates will have necessarily stipulated the work breakdown structure that can be converted into an approved schedule of values. A schedule of values structure should be coordinated with the designer consultant early in the design phase to ensure that all work output is included and defined with its own budget and schedule. This will simplify later evaluation of the effect of change and can be used as a future planning reference and risk analysis basis. The historical project information can then be used as raw data for trend analysis, indexing, and estimating unit data. The schedule of values should be developed no later than the 60% Design Submittal during the design phase.

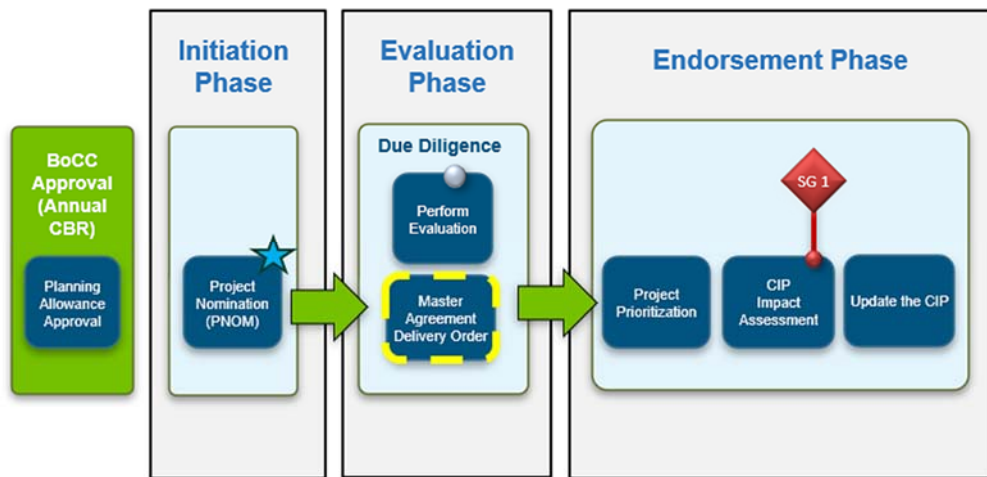
## **2.5. Estimating Approaches by Project Phase**

MSD adheres to its formal PDS processes for the development and delivery of all capital projects. The PDS requires that project estimates be produced during capital planning as part of the project's Evaluation Phase and during delivery as part of the Project Planning Phase and Design Phase. The phases of a project are defined for capital planning and for all methods of project delivery by MSD, including traditional design-bid-build (DBB), DBB for assessment sewer projects (local and lateral sewers), and progressive design-build (PDB).

Cost estimating requirements and approaches are outlined below for MSD's Capital Planning, DBB and PDB PDS modules. More detailed information, guidance and requirements on project cost estimate elements / components and project cost estimate development and submittals are outlined in subsequent sections of the PCM.

### **2.5.1. Estimating Approach by Project Phase – Capital Planning**

MSD utilizes a Capital Planning Module (CPM) to nominate and develop projects as part of a formal capital program planning process. The CPM outlines an objective, criteria-based, decision-making process that reduces subjectivity and provides documented justification for project nominations into MSD's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). All projects approved for inclusion in the CIP that are subsequently included in MSD's approved annual Capital Budget Request (CBR) to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) will then proceed to follow the other processes presented in the appropriate PDS project delivery module (e.g., Design-Bid-Build, Progressive Design-Build, Local Sewer Assessment, Lateral Sewer Assessment). MSD's CPM through the Endorsement Phase is depicted in Figure 2-2 below. (For a view of the complete CPM see Appendix A.)



**Figure 2-2: PDS Module – Capital Planning Module (partial)**

### CPM Evaluation Phase Estimates

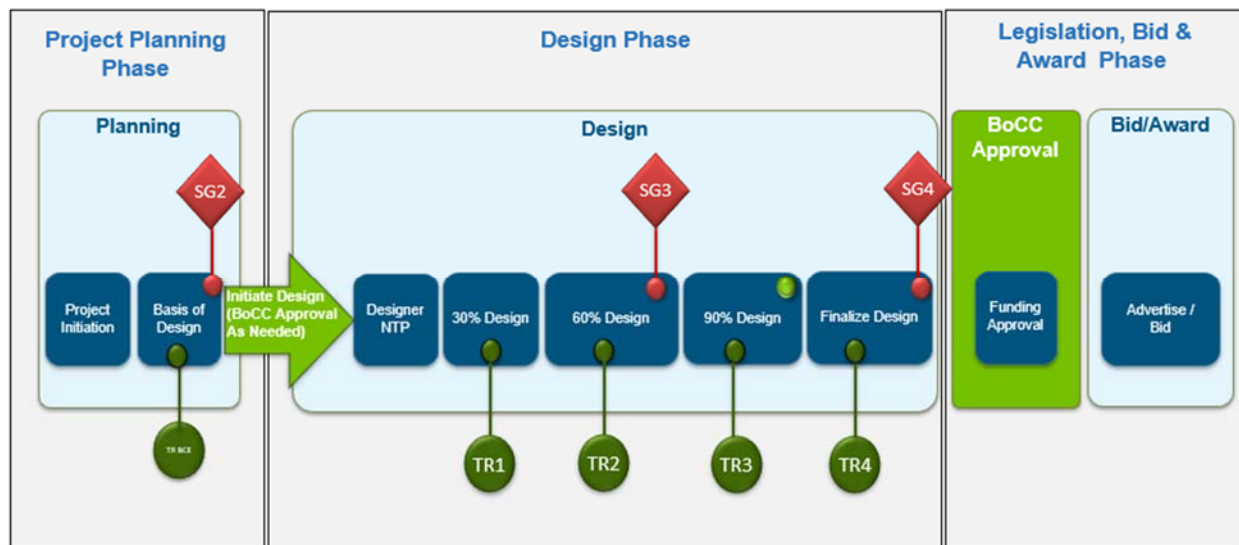
The Evaluation Phase of the CPM requires that a Class 5 estimate be prepared and reviewed ahead of the Stage Gate 1 approval process for inclusion in MSD’s CIP. (The Stage Gate 1 approval process is conducted during the Endorsement Phase of the CPM.) At this stage the project scope definition is limited to an understanding of the problem, a delineation of project limits, and some limited specificity of project components. The estimate will typically be developed based on a conceptual method (e.g., capacity factor or ratio factor) and carries the largest project contingency due to the lack of project definition.

In accordance with MSD’s CPM and project evaluation process, the project estimate will typically be developed in-house using internal cost estimating staff. The project estimate will provide the initial project estimates anticipated for planning, design, and construction related services and miscellaneous expenses. To provide a more reasonable estimation of these amounts and ensure consistency of approach at this early project development stage, formulas for Planning Services, Design Services, Miscellaneous Expense, and Construction Services have been developed and are included in Section 2.7. These will aid the cost estimator in determining preliminary level estimates for these cost categories for purposes of project funding approval and as a basis for contract negotiations once the project is approved and funds appropriated.

Once funding is appropriated for planning, projects will transition from the CPM to the applicable PDS project delivery module for the project. For many projects, procurement then starts for Project Planning, Design, and Construction Phase Services. If the original estimate for these services is inadequate, the project will be delayed until additional funding can be approved through legislation.

### **2.5.2. Estimating Approach by Project Phase - Design-Bid-Build (DBB) Delivery**

The traditional DBB PDS module through the Legislation Bid & Award Phase is depicted in Figure 2-3 below. (For a view of the complete DBB PDS module see Appendix A.)



**Figure 2-3: PDS Module – Design-Bid-Build (DBB) Delivery (partial)**

#### Project Planning Phase Estimate - BCE Estimate

During the Project Planning Phase an alternatives analysis is conducted resulting in a Business Case Evaluation (BCE) that recommends a preferred alternative. The BCE requires that a Class 4 estimate be prepared and reviewed as part of the Stage Gate 2 approval process prior to initiation of the Design Phase. In some cases, MSD will require the design consultant to develop a Conceptual Design Report (CDR), which will include an updated cost estimate, but still within the Class 4 level of accuracy. For assessment sewer projects (local and lateral sewers), the BCE is typically not prepared following alternatives analysis. However, the Class 4 estimate is developed and reviewed as part of the Stage Gate 2 approval process.

The Class 4 estimate produced in the Project Planning Phase establishes a baseline project estimate that is tracked by MSD and used as a basis for measurement of cost performance through the project lifecycle. Because design details may still be lacking, this estimate will likely be developed using a combination of the three conceptual estimating methods with emphasis towards the parametric method.

#### Design Phase Estimates - 30% and 60% Design Stage Estimate

Design Phase estimates for 30% are Class 3 estimates. Design Phase estimates for 60% Design are Class 2 estimates. These estimates will be prepared, reviewed, and approved in accordance with the requirements of the DBB PDS module. The 30% project cost estimate should be based on a defined basis for design and project performance requirements. Design details should have been evolved from the Project Planning level estimate and will likely be developed using a combination of conceptual estimating methods coupled with some deterministic estimating of specific items and unit costs.

At the 60% Design Stage, deterministic estimating methods should be utilized and the OPCC should be developed following a logical work breakdown structure aligned with the major project components. At this juncture the project should be very well defined in terms of sizing, locations, alignments, ROW acquisition requirements, and ancillary project needs. The 60% Design Stage Class 2 estimate will be reviewed as part of the Stage Gate 3 approval process, prior to initiation of the 90% Design Stage.



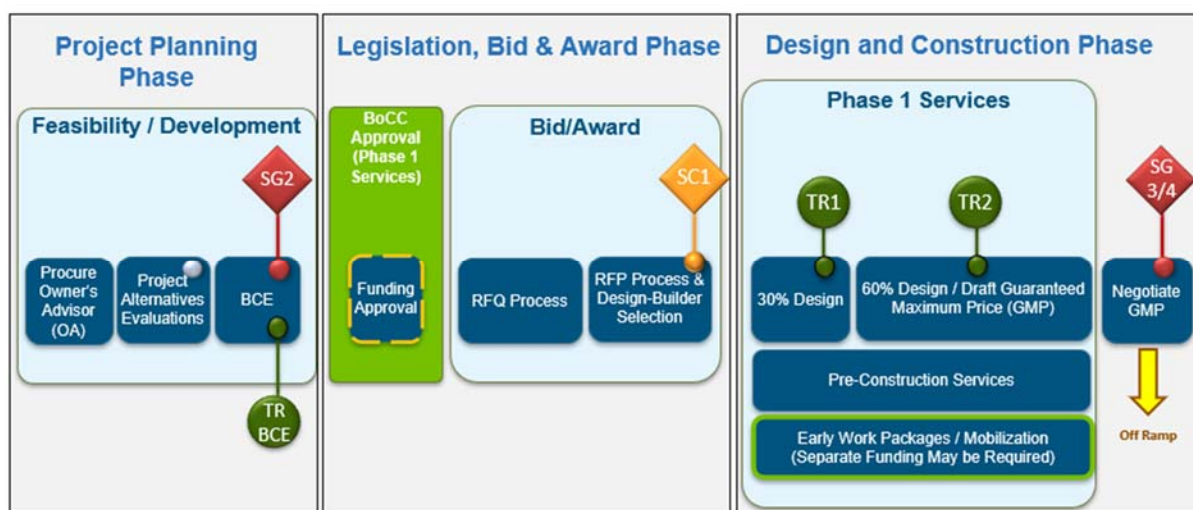
Note: For lateral sewer projects, since there is no 60% Design Stage or Stage Gate 3 event, A Class 2 cost estimate is not developed for 60% Design of these projects.

### Design Phase Estimates - 90% and Final Design Stage Estimate

The estimates for 90% Design and Final Design are both Class 1 estimates. These estimates will be prepared, reviewed, and approved in accordance with the requirements of the DBB PDS module. The 90% Design project estimate will be fully developed deterministically using a fully structured work breakdown structure consistent with MSD standards and shall contain current vendor pricing. There should not be any project scope changes occurring after the 90% Submittal and cost estimate, just a refinement of the final design and incorporation of the technical review comments. It is not envisioned that the project cost estimate would change significantly between the 90% Design Stage and the Final Design Stage. The Final Design (100%) project estimate should be completely defined, contain updated vendor prices, and be reviewed as part of the Stage Gate 4 approval process to advertise the project for construction bids.

### **2.5.3. Estimating Approach by Project Phase - Progressive Design-Build (PDB) Delivery**

The PDS module for the PDB delivery method during Phase 1 Services is depicted in Figure 2-4 below. (For a complete view of the PDB PDS module see Appendix A.)



**Figure 2-4: PDS Module – Progressive Design-Build (PDB) Delivery(partial)**

The PDB PDS module requires that project estimates be produced during both the Project Planning Phase and the Design Phase. The Project Planning Phase estimate is prepared by the Owner's Advisor (OA), also known as the criteria engineer under Ohio Revised Code 153.692. Design estimates are prepared as part of Phase 1 Services for the Basis of Design Report (BODR), the 30% Design deliverable, the 60% Design deliverable for the Main Work Package, and for any Early Work Package as applicable.

For PDB projects, MSD includes Project Contingency to account for design development and risk-derived scope. This contingency amount applies to all cost estimates produced over the project life cycle. As Phase 1 (design) of a PDB contract progresses, the Project Contingency can be expected to gradually reduce as



undefined scope becomes defined scope. During design, there is generally a corresponding increase to the estimated cost of the defined scope cost of work. As Phase 2 (construction phase) of the PDB contract begins, undefined scope will have been minimized, and specific risk-derived amounts will make up a significant portion of the Project Contingency. Note this Project Contingency amount is carried under the Design-Builder's Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for use by the Design-Builder and that this is a core feature of PDB delivery.

#### Project Planning Phase - BCE Estimate

The estimating approach for the Project Planning Phase for PDB projects matches the approach outlined above for DBB projects during this phase; however, the final BCE will be updated or prepared by the OA as the project criteria are established prior to procurement of the Design-Builder for Phase 1 Services. For PDB projects, additional alternatives analysis and planning may be conducted by the Design-Builder during Phase 1 Services as this is a key feature and benefit of collaborative delivery.

#### Design (Phase 1 Services) Estimates – BODR, 30% Design and 60% Design Stage Estimate

The estimating approach for the 30% Design Stage and 60% Design Stage for PDB projects matches the approach outlined above for DBB projects; however, for PDB projects:

- The BODR estimate is a Class 4 estimate.
- The 30% estimate is a Class 3 estimate.
- The 60% estimate is a Class 2 estimate.

In contrast to the DBB process, the 60% Design Stage does not correspond with a Stage Gate milestone. Instead, shortly after the 60% Design deliverable review, the Design-Builder will develop a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal for review as part of the PDB Stage Gate 3/4 approval process using bid costs. This should occur prior to BoCC legislation to allow the start of Phase 2 Services (construction) for the Main Work Package.

Note that for PDB projects, no cost estimates are prepared following development and negotiation of a GMP because the Phase 2 Contract Price Amendment establishes the cost of work and additional estimating would be moot.

## **2.6. Project Cost Estimate Submittal Requirements**

All project cost estimates should be developed and delivered via an Estimate Report to include the required components (as applicable) outlined below. All estimates should provide clear documentation on how the estimate was developed and the source of the cost information used.

### **2.6.1. Document List**

The document list establishes the basis of the estimate. It will include a complete project description and reference all currently available drawings, sketches, reports, studies, equipment schedules, and outline specifications. The date on the drawings and documents will also be noted.

### **2.6.2. Assumptions**

Assumptions include information regarding labor rates, labor productivity, hours of work, unique site conditions and restrictions, building materials used, and construction methods. Assumptions will be documented to understand costs that were estimated when there was insufficient or minimal project scope information.

### **2.6.3. Parametric Measurements**

The estimate total and subtotal for each heading will be expressed in common designated units for each estimated line item, evaluation of costs, and historical databases. If a parametric unit applies to the scope of the project, it can be shown in the Body of Estimate. An example would be the “Million Gallons per Day” (MGD) flow rate for a pump station.

### **2.6.4. Body of Estimate**

The Body of Estimate is the main component of the cost estimate submittal and includes the cost estimate line-item structure, quantities, units of measure, and pricing information. See Section 2.7 for details.

### **2.6.5. Total Project Cost Estimate Summary**

All project cost estimates, regardless of phase or project delivery method, have certain essential components. These required components promote consistency across MSD’s projects and ensure alignment with the appropriate PDS. The Total Project Cost Estimate Summary summarizes the total project cost and cost development by component.

See Appendix B for Project Cost Estimate Summary Templates for DBB and PDB delivery methods. Templates include Cost of Work as well as applicable Estimate Mark-Up items and Indirect Project Costs factoring into the overall Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) and Total Project Cost. Note the Total Project Cost entry should be expressed to a degree of accuracy of no more than three significant digits (e.g.: a \$25,395,537 detailed estimate will round to \$25,400,000; a \$5,322,437 detailed estimate will round to 5,320,000). See Estimate Mark-Ups and Indirect Project Costs information in Section 2.7 below for more information on these elements.

For Capital Program reporting, the Opinion of Probable Construction Cost and Total Project Cost Estimate amounts should also be shown in 2023 dollars, as shown on Page 2 of Figure B-1 and Figure B-2. This conversion shall be accomplished using the MSD Composite Index. Development of the MSD Composite Index is described in Appendix C. Index values shall be retrieved from a table on MSD’s Capital Project Resource Library. The ratio of the current index value to the 2023 baseline (3394) is the factor to use when converting a current estimate to 2023 dollars.

## **2.7. Project Cost Estimate Development Guidance**

To provide consistency in the development and structure of cost estimates, guidance is provided below for the Body of Estimate as well as Estimate Mark-Ups and Indirect Project Costs. To further support this effort, refer to the figures and tables included herein for additional guidance.

### 2.7.1. Body of Estimate

- Estimate line-item structure: Each line item will be coded to a WBS and CSI code with a description of the type of material involved or the scope of the item that is being priced.
- Quantities: If the scope of an entire construction item or task is difficult to take off, it will be designated as a “lump sum.” Quantities can also be expressed as a designated number of total individual labor hours to complete a task.
- Unit of measure: Each estimate line item will have a quantity of work expressed in its appropriate unit of measure.
- Pricing: This is the application of unit costs to the quantities for each unit of measure to be acquired or installed. Unit costs are determined by calculating variables in the following five categories:
  - Material cost: The material unit price will be derived from vendor quotes, source books such as those produced by RS Means, and historical cost data. Sources should be identified within the Assumptions section of the Estimate Report.
  - Labor cost: Labor unit price will be based on probable labor production rates and crew sizes. Labor cost = (quantity/labor production rate) x labor rate where the labor production rate is the number of units of work produced by a person in a specified period, usually hours or days. This rate varies between trades, projects, climatic conditions, job supervision, complexity of the installation process, and other factors.
  - Equipment cost: The Contractor’s major construction equipment costs include the rental, transportation, handling on the job, operation and maintenance costs. The equipment costs will be allocated to each appropriate line item but may be shown as an individual line item if a major piece of equipment is used for many different work tasks during the project.
  - Subcontractor cost: The subcontractor’s quote will be reviewed for items that are included and excluded from their quotation and the length of time the subcontractor will honor the price.
  - Other construction costs: This includes miscellaneous cost / expense items that are not included in the unit costs. They may include costs associated with the following factors: weather, crew transportation, soil conditions, hazardous material removal, utility relocations, wetland replacements, road/highway/special crossings, traffic control, ground water, labor strikes, material and/or subcontractor availability, general material economic conditions, complexity of the project, and construction phasing. These costs should be clearly explained within the Estimate Report.

### 2.7.2. Mark-Ups

Mark-Ups are costs that are expressed as a lump sum, deterministic units or calculated as a percentage of the subtotal of the estimated construction costs. These mark-ups represent costs that may be incurred by a contractor outside of the direct actions required to build the asset. Mark-ups are added to Cost of Work to obtain the OPCC. They are presented in the Project Cost Estimate Summary.

- Contractor's General Conditions (for DBB projects only): The Contractor’s General Conditions consider the cost of items that cannot be associated with a specific element of work but must be

furnished to complete a project. These include cost items such as supervision, temporary facilities, office trailers, toilets, utilities, permits, photographs, small tools, and other items. Estimates produced for MSD will calculate the Contractor's General Conditions, barring deviation for professional judgment, as a percentage of the Cost of Work (see Table 2-3).

**Table 2-3: DBB General Conditions Percentage**

Cost of Work	DBB – General Conditions Percentage
Below \$1,000,000	20%
\$1,000,000 to 5,000,000	20%
\$5,000,000 to 10,000,000	18%
\$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000	15%
\$20,000,000 to \$100,000,000	15%
Greater than \$100,000,000	13%

- **General Conditions (for PDB projects only):** For PDB projects, General Conditions are the Design-Builder's costs for materials, services, and equipment necessary to perform the Work on the Project, but that are not incorporated into the Project. Bonds and Insurance costs are included in this amount. The cost of General Conditions is calculated as a percentage of the Cost of Work (labor, materials, equipment, bonds, insurance, and other costs to create the asset plus any allowances and project contingency). This percentage markup is negotiated as part of the procurement process, prior to the execution of a contract for Phase 1 Services. For preparation of a Capital Planning or Project Planning level estimate (BCE prepared by the OA), the percentage of 11% of the Cost of Work Subtotal should be used.
- **Contractor's Overhead & Profit (OH&P) (for DBB projects only):** Contractor's Overhead is the cost of doing business. Contractor's Profit is the compensation amount for risk and efforts to undertake and complete the project. Estimates produced for MSD, barring deviation for professional judgment, will calculate the Contractor's OH&P as a percentage of the Cost of Work (see Table 2-4).
- **Design-Build Services Fee:** The Design-Build Services Fee is the combination of compensation for (a) all Design-Builder services during Phase 2 not included in the Cost of the Work and excluding Phase 2 work by the Engineer of Record, whose work during Phase 2 shall be accounted for in the Design Services Fee; (b) all Design-Builder overhead during Phase 2 including home office overhead; and (c) all Design-Builder profit for Phase 2 of the Project including any Design-Builder mark-ups for subcontractors engaged during Phase 2; and (d) all risks assumed by the Design-Builder under the Contract Documents. This fee is negotiated as a percentage of the Cost of Work during the procurement process and prior to the execution of a contract. For preparation of a Capital Planning or a Project Planning estimate (BCE prepared by OA), the percentage of 10% of the Cost of Work Subtotal shall be used.

**Table 2-4: DBB Overhead & Profit Percentage**

Cost of Work	DBB – Overhead & Profit Percentage
Below \$1,000,000	22%
\$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000	20%
\$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000	18%
\$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000	15%
\$20,000,000 to \$100,000,000	12%
Greater than \$100,000,000	10%

- **Allowances:** These amounts are used to cover the costs of known but underdefined requirements for various activity or work items. Typical examples include work associated with other utilities, railroads, and renewal of assets for which the condition cannot be determined until construction begins.

For PDB projects, any Allowance Items, as well as their corresponding Allowance Values, are set forth in the contract, the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal, or Contract Price Amendment (Phase 2 or otherwise). The Design-Builder and MSD work closely together during Phase 1 to develop Construction Documents consistent with the Allowance Values, but generally there is no guarantee by the Design-Builder that the Allowance Item in question can be performed for the Allowance Value. The Allowance Value shall include the direct cost of labor, materials, equipment, transportation, taxes, and insurance associated with the applicable Allowance Item. All other costs, including design fees, Design-Builder's overall project management and General Conditions costs, overhead and Fee, are deemed to be included in the original Contract Price, and are not subject to adjustment notwithstanding the actual amount of the Allowance Item. While Allowances are not an explicit "Markup" it is addressed here for convenience and included in the Cost of Work Subtotal (refer to Figure 2-5 and Figure B-2).

- **Project Contingency (for DBB projects only):** Project Contingency represents the uncertainty inherent in every estimate. This uncertainty includes not knowing precise quantities, exact methods, site conditions, or other considerations. Estimators are aware that these uncertainties exist and can estimate their probable cost based on professional judgment. The estimated cost of these uncertainties is called contingency. MSD's approach to contingency has been based on the framework developed by the AACE. The AACE RP No. 40R-08 (Contingency Estimating-General Principles) provides generic principles for the practice of estimating contingency. In general, AACE provides four methods of estimating contingency: expert judgment, predetermined guidelines, simulation analysis, and parametric analysis. MSD has adopted the predetermined guideline option with some flexibility to allow for expert judgment. The project contingency percentage decreases as the design life cycle progresses. The project contingency should be applied to the Cost of Work plus General Conditions plus Contractor's Overhead & Profit plus Allowances.
- **Project Contingency (for PDB projects only):** MSD's approach to contingency has been based on the framework developed by the AACE. The AACE RP No. 40R-08 (Contingency Estimating-General Principles) provides generic principles for the practice of estimating contingency. In general, AACE provides four methods of estimating contingency: expert judgment, predetermined guidelines, simulation analysis, and parametric analysis. MSD has adopted the predetermined guideline option with some flexibility to allow for expert judgment. This item applies only to PDB projects

and should be applied to each prepared Cost Estimate or Contract Price Amendment proposal. Project Contingency may initially be calculated prior to engaging with a Design-Builder by applying an agreed percentage (refer to Table 2-5) to the Cost of Work Subtotal. The amount included under a Contract Price Amendment developed from a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) or similar proposal will be negotiated with the Design-Builder based on the actual quantified and monetized risks included in the project's Risk Register (See Table 2-5). The Project Contingency percentage generally decreases as the design progresses and the design becomes more determinate. While Project Contingency is not an explicit "Markup" it is addressed here for convenience and included in the Cost of Work Subtotal (refer to Figure 2-5 and Figure B-2).

**Table 2-5: DBB and PDB Project Contingency Percentage**

MSD Phase/ Stage	Project Definition	Project Contingency	Project Contingency
		DBB %	PDB %
Capital Planning	1-5%	40%	40%
Project Planning	5-10%	30%	40%
CDR/BODR	10-15%	25%	35%
30% Design	15-40%	20%	20%
60% Design	40-60%	15%	10%
90% Design	60-90%	10%	Per GMP, risk based
Final Design	90-100%	5%	Per GMP, risk based

- **Bonds:** Contractors are required to submit a performance bond to guarantee satisfactory completion of a project. MSD typically requires this amount to be 1% of the Construction Subtotal (for DBB equal to Cost of Work plus General Conditions plus Overhead & Profit plus Allowances plus Project Contingency). For PDB projects, this amount is included with General Conditions.
- **Insurance:** Contractors are also required to carry certain Liability and Vehicle Insurances. MSD will use an average of 1% of the Construction Subtotal to estimate Insurance costs. For PDB projects, this amount is included with General Conditions.
- **Escalation:** This factor is used to accommodate price increases or decreases during the life of an asset or the life of a project contract. Escalation is included in financial analysis to evaluate anticipated cost changes in material and/or labor. OPCCs should be escalated at 3.5% per year to the mid-point of construction. For PDB projects, the referenced percentage is only used on pre-BODR estimates, since the Design-Builder will incorporate this amount into the Cost of Work amount for its estimates or proposals.
- **Market Contingency:** This contingency is a factor that may be added to Class 2 and Class 1 estimates to account for uncertainties which may adversely impact the bidding market. Examples of these conditions include:
  - Reduced bidding competition from Contractors
  - Labor Availability from tradesmen
  - Sudden changes in material pricing (e.g., tariffs, rising costs, supply chain)
  - Other unforeseen conditions (e.g., COVID-19)

The need for inclusion of this contingency in projects shall be evaluated by the Estimator and approved by MSD on a project-by-project basis. This guide makes no recommendation for the value or the method for determining the value. Any value that is included in an estimate should be accompanied by an explanation in the Estimate Report. For PDB projects, Market Contingency is only used on pre-BODR estimates, since all Design-Builder work products will incorporate this amount into the Project Contingency amount for its estimates or proposals.

- Services During Construction (for PDB projects only): Services During Construction should be provided by the Design-Builder Engineer of Record, including all sub-consultants to the Engineer of Record. Typical services can include Project Management, Engineering Services During Construction, Resident Inspection, Field Engineering, Inspection and Testing, Operation & Maintenance Manual Development, Online Training Modules and Documentation Development, Special Inspections, and SCADA Programming/Integration. While Services During Construction are not an explicit “Markup” it is addressed here for convenience (refer to Figure 2-5 and Figure B-2). This amount is typically negotiated after 60% design. For the Project Planning Phase Estimate (BCE prepared by the OA), barring deviation for professional judgment, the fee shall be based on the OPCC according to the following formula:
  - Construction Services Estimate – Conveyance Projects =  $8.779 * [OPCC]^{.678}$
  - Construction Services Estimate – Facility Projects without SCADA =  $0.874 * [OPCC]^{.850}$
  - Construction Services Estimate – Facility Projects with SCADA =  $3.106 * [OPCC]^{.808}$
  - Construction Services Estimate notes:
    - OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
    - The Construction Services Estimate formulas listed above were derived from MSD historical cost information which does not include on-site construction management or inspection services. Projects expected to include these consultant services, if not accounted for elsewhere, will require development of a supplemental estimate for such services to be added to the Construction Services Estimate amount calculated using the applicable formula above.
    - The Construction Services Estimate for projects over \$20,000,000 should be developed using a bottoms-up approach on an individual case-by-case basis. If no detailed estimate can be developed, the formula above may be utilized upon approval by MSD.
    - A minimum of \$50,000 shall be used for the construction services estimate for conveyance projects and facilities projects without SCADA. A minimum of \$100,000 shall be used for the construction services estimate for facility projects with SCADA.

### **2.7.3. Indirect Project Costs**

Indirect project costs include planning and design, certain pre-construction and construction services performed by the engineer-of-record (design consultant or design-builder), right-of-way, and other miscellaneous expense. Indirect project costs are presented in the Total Project Cost Summary Table.

- Project Planning Services: Project Planning professional services can be defined as making decisions now with the objective of influencing the future success of a capital improvement project. This future-oriented decision process involves:

- Setting objectives
- Gathering information
- Evaluating and recommending alternatives through a Business Case Evaluation
- Identifying key determinants that establish the design's philosophy
- Communicating the plan

Estimates, barring deviation for professional judgment, shall be based on the OPCC according to the following formula:

- Project Planning Services Estimate =  $17.016 * [OPCC]^{.629}$
  - OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
  - A minimum of \$50,000 shall be used for the planning estimate.
- Design Services: Design Services includes professional services to complete the Design Phase. Design estimates, barring deviation for professional judgment, shall be based on the OPCC according to the following formula:
    - Design Services Estimate =  $5.418 * [OPCC]^{.733}$
    - OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
    - Design estimates for projects over \$20,000,000 should be developed using a bottoms-up approach on an individual case-by-case basis. If no detailed estimate can be developed, the formula above may be utilized upon approval by MSD.
    - A minimum of \$50,000 shall be used for the design estimate.
  - Owner's Advisor ("OA") Phase 1 Services (for PDB projects only): Owner's Advisor Phase 1 Services include project planning, criteria development per the Ohio Revised Code, support of design activities during Phase 1 (design). Typical additional services include submittal review, invoice review, design review and validation, constructability review, cost monitoring, Owner and Design-Builder partnering support, project execution planning, facilitating meetings and reviews, and other items. Refer to Table 2-7 for guidance on Owner's Advisor Phase 1 Services estimates.
  - Design Services Fee (for PDB projects only): The Design Services Fee is the total compensation for all Phase 1 and Phase 2 services performed by the Design-Builder's Engineer of Record, including all subconsultants to the Engineer of Record. It shall not include any mark-ups by the Design-Builder; such mark-ups, if any, shall be incorporated into the Preconstruction Fee.
    - Design Services Fee Estimate =  $5.418 * [OPCC]^{.733}$
    - OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
    - Design Services Fee estimates for projects over \$20,000,000 should be developed using a bottoms-up approach on an individual case-by-case basis. If no detailed estimate can be developed, the formula above may be utilized upon approval by MSD.

While Design-Builder's Design Services Fee for Phase 2 Design Support during Construction (also called "Services During Construction" or "SDC's") are a contractual component of the overall Design Services Fee, this fee is identified herein as a separate bulleted item under 2.7.2 Markups since it is not always incorporated into the Design Services Fee.



- Pre-Construction Fee:
  - DBB Projects: This cost category is no longer utilized.
  - PDB Projects: Pre-construction services will be performed by the Design-Builder as part of its Phase 1 services. The Preconstruction Fee is the combination of compensation for (a) all Phase 1 work by the Design-Builder, including all subcontractors to the Design-Builder; (b) all Design-Builder overhead for Phase 1, including home office overhead; (c) profit for such services provided during Phase 1 of the Project as defined in the Contract Documents; and (d) permit application fees. Refer to Table 2-7 for guidance on Pre-Construction Fee estimates.
- Construction Services: Construction Services estimates include the following professional services conducted by a consultant during the construction phase (NOTE: These professional services may be provided by the Engineer of Record or another consultant at MSD's discretion.):
  - Project Management
  - Engineering Services During Construction
  - Construction Management Services
  - Resident Inspection
  - Field Engineering
  - Inspection and Testing
  - Operations Manual System (OMS) Development
  - Special Inspections
  - Online Training Modules and Documentation
  - SCADA Programming / Integration

Construction Services, barring deviation for professional judgment, shall be based on the OPCC according to the following formulas by project type:

- Construction Services Estimate – Conveyance Projects =  $8.779 * [OPCC]^{.678}$
- Construction Services Estimate – Facility Projects without SCADA =  $0.874 * [OPCC]^{.850}$
- Construction Services Estimate – Facility Projects with SCADA =  $3.106 * [OPCC]^{.808}$
- Construction Services Estimate notes:
- OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
- The Construction Services Estimate formulas listed above were derived from MSD historical cost information which does not include on-site construction management or inspection services. Projects expected to include these consultant services, if not accounted for elsewhere, will require development of a supplemental estimate for such services to be added to the Construction Services Estimate amount calculated using the applicable formula above.
- The Construction Services Estimate for projects over \$20,000,000 should be developed using a bottoms-up approach on an individual case-by-case basis. If no detailed estimate can be developed, the formula above may be utilized upon approval by MSD.

- A minimum of \$50,000 shall be used for the construction services estimate for conveyance projects and facilities projects without SCADA. A minimum of \$100,000 shall be used for the construction services estimate for facility projects with SCADA.
- Owner's Advisor ("OA") Phase 2 Services (for PDB projects only): Owner's Advisor Phase 2 Services include support with various project implementation activities during Phase 2 of the PDB delivery process. Typical services may include submittal review, constructability reviews, inspection support, testing, ongoing owner and Design-Builder partnering support, cost monitoring and support of incentive/award fee initiatives, late-stage design reviews and validation, construction monitoring and management, commissioning and start-up support, warranty period support, facilitating meetings and reviews, and other items. Refer to Table 2-7 for guidance on Owner's Advisor Phase 2 Services estimates.
- Right-of-Way (ROW): The ROW estimate will include:
  - Appraisal costs
  - Title reports
  - Recording costs/mailling costs
  - Compensation to property owners for acquisition at Fair Market Value (FMV)
  - Relocation costs, if applicable
  - Property management costs/real estate tax bills/utilities
  - Eminent domain costs (expert witness costs/court filing costs/settlement costs)
  - ROW costs should be estimated based on the anticipated acquisition requirements for the project and developed in conjunction with or confirmed with the MSD ROW Group.
- Right-of-Way (ROW) Escalation: Escalation (to the start date of construction) on the cost of ROW is then added to the ROW cost. The ROW estimate should be escalated at 3.5% per year to the start date of construction.
- Miscellaneous Expense: The Miscellaneous Expense estimate includes items that represent expenditures necessary to complete a project but cannot be categorized into discernible scheduled phases. Examples of Miscellaneous expense include:
  - Street opening permits and inspections
  - Environmental inspections
  - Geotechnical Report
  - Utility Relocation
  - Public Relations
  - Permit to Install (PTI)
  - Railroad Permits
  - Loan origination fees
  - 401/404 Creeks and Outfalls Certification
  - Witness testing

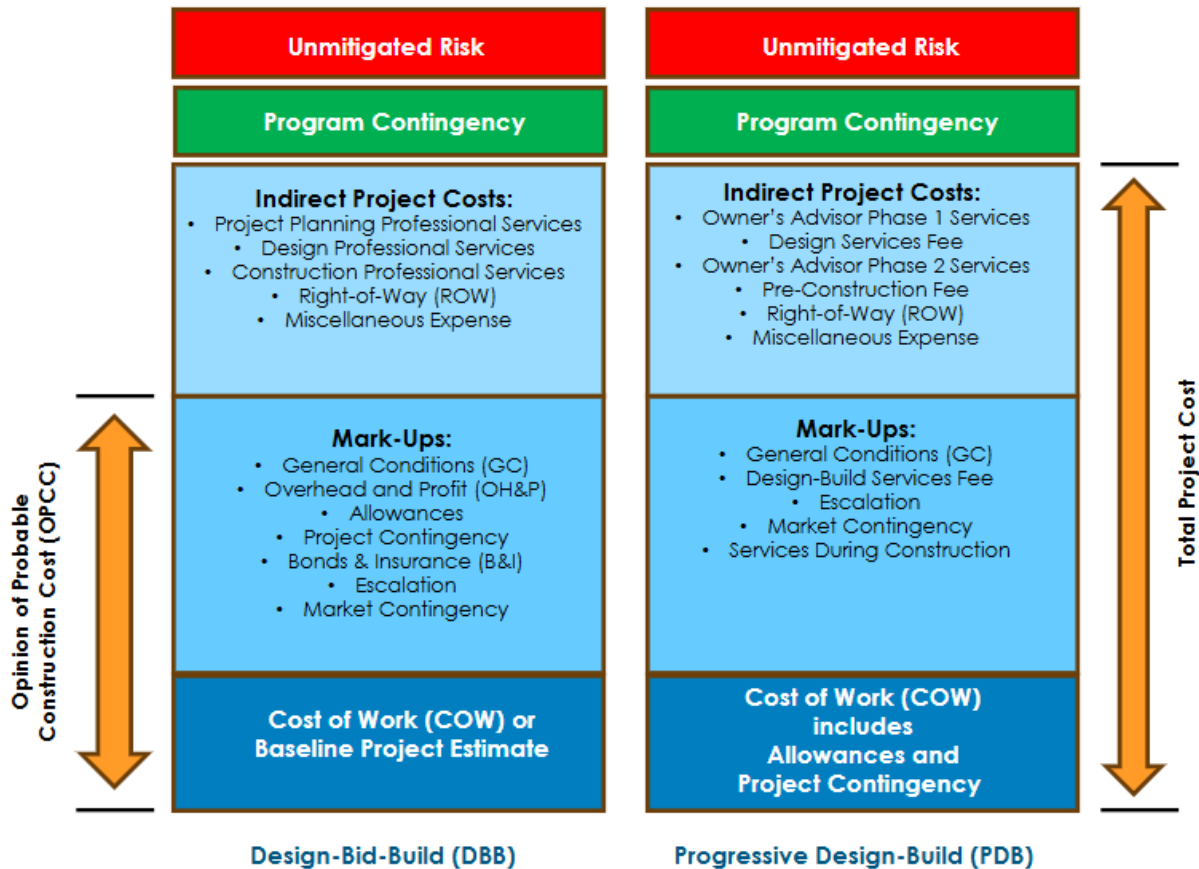
Barring deviation for professional judgment, miscellaneous expense shall be based on the OPCC according to the following formula:

- $\text{Miscellaneous Expense} = 562.7 * [\text{OPCC}]^{.372}$
- OPCC – Latest estimated construction cost escalated to the mid-point of construction
- A minimum of \$10,000 shall be used for the miscellaneous expense estimate.
- Program Management: This indirect cost activity is only used in certain cases when it is deemed necessary to capitalize the costs of overhead for individual projects. The exact amount each project receives from the different allowances is based on a weighted average spend formula performed by MSD Accounting. In general, this indirect cost will be recorded as zero for the individual projects until the allocation is completed.

#### **2.7.4. Program-Wide Contingency**

MSD established Program-Wide Contingency funding to address CIP project delivery change management challenges that occur during the Planning, Design, and Construction Phase. This amount is maintained at the program-level and allocated as-needed across the program to offset unforeseen project delivery circumstances encountered at the project-level. Program-Wide Contingency amounts are not populated for project cost estimates but are annually aggregated for Capital Budget Request at the Program-Level, only. Costs are allocated to specific capital projects into this line-item category after they are incurred as part of an annual allocation accounting process.

Each of the Project Cost Estimate Elements identified in Section 2 is represented in Figure 2-5 below.



**Figure 2-5: Project Cost Estimate Elements**

#### 2.7.5. Typical Elements of PDB Contract Price

For PDB projects, DBIA Document No. 545 Modified Standard Form of General Conditions of Contract Between City and Design-Builder includes descriptions of terms, several of which are included in Section 2. Following is a summary of a few typical PDB Contract Price relationships.

- The Contract Price (see Article 7.1) is equal to the sum of the Design-Builder's Fee (see Article 7.2) plus Cost of Work (see Article 7.3) plus General Conditions (see Article 7.5) plus Allowances (Article 7.7).
- The Design-Builder's Fee (see Article 7.2) is equal to the sum of Design Services Fee (see Article 7.2.1.1) plus Preconstruction Fee (see Article 7.2.1.2) plus Design-Build Services Fee (see Article 7.2.1.3).
- Design Services Fee (see Article 7.2.1.1) is the total compensation for all Phase 1 and Phase 2 design services provided by the Engineer of Record, including all subconsultants to the Engineer of Record, and it is negotiated during the procurement process as a lump sum amount prior to the execution of a contract.
  - It may also include an amount for Services During Construction for the specific services provided by the Engineer of Record. This Fee will be established as an Allowance during procurement and prior to the execution of a contract. Using the 60% Design and known Scope of Work, this Fee will be negotiated during preparation of the GMP proposal. The

negotiated Fee may be converted to a lump sum or T&M not-to-exceed value in the Contract Price Amendment.

- MSD generally includes Design-Builder's Design Services Fee for Phase 2 Design Support during Construction (also called "Services During Construction" or SDC's) as a separate line item under the Markups (see Paragraph 2.7.2) section of its Opinion of Probable Construction Cost estimates for the ease of tracking it discretely, instead of including it in the Design Services Fee.
- Preconstruction Fee (see Article 7.2.1.2) is the combination of compensation for (a) all Phase 1 work by the Design-Builder, including all subcontractors to the Design-Builder; (b) all Design-Builder overhead for Phase 1, including home office overhead; (c) profit for such services provided during Phase 1 of the Project as defined in the Contract Documents, including Design-Builder markups for subcontractors and subconsultants engaged during Phase 1; and (d) permit application fees required for Phase 1. This lump sum fee is negotiated during the procurement process and prior to the execution of a contract.
- Design-Build Services Fee (see Article 7.2.1.3) is the combination of compensation for (a) all Design-Builder services during Phase 2 not included in the Cost of Work and excluding Phase 2 work by the Engineer of Record, whose work during Phase 2 is accounted for in the Design Services Fee; (b) all Design-Builder overhead during Phase 2 including home office overhead; (c) all Design-Builder profit for Phase 2 of the Project including any Design-Builder markups for subcontractors engaged in Phase 2; and (d) all risks assumed by the Design-Builder under the Contract Documents. This fee is negotiated as a percentage of the cost of work during the procurement process and prior to the execution of a contract.

#### **2.7.6. Project Cost Estimate Development Guidance by Project Phase and Delivery Method**

Tables 2-6 and Table 2-7 on the following pages provide a comprehensive summary of project cost estimating guidance based on the project phase and delivery method, DBB or PDB, respectively.

Table 2-6: DBB - Project Cost Estimate Development Guidance by Project Phase



Phase	Capital Planning	Project Planning (BCE or CDR)	Design (30%, 60%)	Design (90%)	Design (Final)
MSD Estimate Class (Estimate Name)	Class 5	Class 4 (Baseline Project Estimate)	Class 3; Class 2	Class 1	Class 1
MSD Stage Gate (SG)	SG 1	SG 2	30%-N/A; 60%-SG 3	N/A	SG 4
Typical Estimating Method(s)	Conceptual	Conceptual	Conceptual (30%) / Combination (60%)	Deterministic	Deterministic

Key Cost Estimate Components					
Cost of Work	Costs for labor, materials, equipment, and other items to create the asset.				
Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC)	Cost of Work plus mark-ups that are included in the contractor's bid estimate for the project to be completed.				
Indirect Project Costs	Includes project planning, design, pre-construction, and construction professional services <i>[performed by the engineer-of-record (consultant), or another consultant to MSD]</i> , right-of-way, and miscellaneous expense.				
Total Project Cost	OPCC plus the addition of the indirect costs necessary to complete the construction and startup of an asset.				
Life Cycle Cost	Total Project Cost plus the operation and maintenance costs over the life of the asset. Used to compare alternatives over the life of the assets.				
Project Cost Estimate Submittal Requirements					
Document List	See Section 2.6.1				
Assumptions	See Section 2.6.2				
Parametric Measurements	See Section 2.6.3				
Body of Estimate	See Section 2.6.4				
Total Project Cost Estimate Summary	See Section 2.6.5				
Mark-Ups - Add to Cost of Work to obtain OPCC					
Contractor's General Conditions (GCs)	See Table 2-3	See Table 2-3	See Table 2-3	See Table 2-3	See Table 2-3
Contractor's Overhead & Profit - OH&P	See Table 2-4	See Table 2-4	See Table 2-4	See Table 2-4	See Table 2-4
Allowances	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis
Project Contingency	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5
Bonds	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal
Insurance	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal	1% of Construction Subtotal
Escalation (to Mid-Point of Construction)	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.
Market Contingency			Case by Case Basis for Class 2 only	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis
Indirect Project Costs - Add to OPCC to obtain Total Project Cost					
Project Planning Services					
Project Planning Services	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual	Established / Actual	Established / Actual	Established / Actual
Design Services					
Design Services	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual	Established / Actual	Established / Actual
Pre-Construction Services					
Pre-Construction Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction Services					
Construction Services	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual
Right-of-Way (ROW)					
Right-of-Way (ROW)	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW	Established / Actual	Established / Actual
Right-of-Way (ROW) Escalation	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	N/A	N/A
Miscellaneous Expense					
Miscellaneous Expense	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual	Established / Actual	Established / Actual
Program Management					
Program Management	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3



Table 2-7: PDB - Project Cost Estimate Development Guidance by Project Phase



Phase	Capital Planning	Project Planning (OA BCE)	Design (BODR; 30%; 60%)	Design (90%)	Design (Final)
MSD Estimate Class (Estimate Name)	Class 5	Class 5 (Baseline Project Estimate)	Class 4; Class 3; Class 2	N/A	N/A
MSD Stage Gate (SG)	SG 1	SG 2	BODR-N/A; 30%-N/A; 60%- SG 3/4	N/A	N/A
Typical Estimating Method(s)	Conceptual	Conceptual	Conceptual; Combination; Deterministic	N/A	N/A

Key Cost Estimate Components					
Cost of Work	Costs for labor, materials, equipment, and other items to create the asset.				
Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC)	Cost of Work plus markups that are included in the contractor's bid estimate for the project to be completed.				
Indirect Project Costs	Includes project planning, design, pre-construction, and construction professional services [performed by the engineer-of-record (consultant or design-builder), Owner's Advisor, or another consultant to MSD] , right-of-way, and miscellaneous expense.				
Total Project Cost	OPCC plus the addition of the indirect costs necessary to complete the construction and startup of an asset.				
Life Cycle Cost	Total Project Cost plus the operation and maintenance costs over the life of the asset. Used to compare alternatives over the life of the assets.				
Project Cost Estimate Submittal Requirements					
Document List	See Section 2.6.1				
Assumptions	See Section 2.6.2				
Parametric Measurements	See Section 2.6.3				
Body of Estimate	See Section 2.6.4				
Total Project Cost Estimate Summary	See Section 2.6.5				
Mark-Ups - Add to Cost of Work to obtain OPCC					
Contractor's General Conditions (GCs)	11%	11%	Case by Case Basis		
Design-Build Services Fee	10%	10%	Case by Case Basis		
Allowances	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis		
Project Contingency	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5	See Table 2-5		
Escalation (to Mid-Point of Construction)	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.		
Market Contingency			Case by Case for Class 2 only		
Services During Construction	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.	See Section 2.7.2.		
Indirect Project Costs - Add to OPCC to obtain Total Project Cost					
Project Planning Services					
Project Planning Services	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual	Established / Actual		
Design Services					
Design Services Fee	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual		
Pre-Construction Fee	3% of OPCC	3% of OPCC	Established / Actual		
Pre-Construction Services					
Owner's Adviser Phase 1 Services	1.5% of OPCC	1.5% of OPCC	Established / Actual		
Construction Services					
Owner's Adviser Phase 2 Services	0.5% of OPCC	0.5% of OPCC	0.5% of OPCC		
Right-of-Way (ROW)					
Right-of-Way (ROW)	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW	Case by Case Basis, Confirm w/ MSD ROW		
Right-of-Way (ROW) Escalation	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3		
Miscellaneous Expense					
Miscellaneous Expense	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	Established / Actual		
Program Management					
Program Management	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3	See Section 2.7.3		

### **3. LIFE CYCLE AND PRESENT VALUE COST ANALYSIS**

Life Cycle Cost is the Project Cost plus the operation and maintenance costs over the life of the asset.

#### **3.1. Life Cycle Cost Analysis**

Life cycle cost analysis (LCCA) is a method of project evaluation in which all costs arising from owning, operating, maintaining, and ultimately disposing of the asset are considered. Life cycle cost analysis is particularly suitable for evaluating asset design alternatives to ensure a required level of performance, engineering standards, system reliability, and even aesthetic considerations while taking into account that the alternatives differ in initial investment costs and useful life. Life cycle cost analysis can be applied to any capital investment decision in which higher initial costs are traded for reduced future cost or obligations. Life cycle cost analysis also provides a significantly better assessment of long-term cost-effectiveness of an asset than alternative economic methods that focus only on first costs with short-term operating related costs.

The MSD life cycle cost is the basic building block of the present value cost analysis method. The life cycle cost analysis method, as applied here, is used to compute the life cycle cost of the asset or a combination of interdependent systems over a given period of study (usually related to the useful life for capital assets) with all costs and revenues expressed in constant dollars (no inflation). While revenues do not often come into play in MSD life cycle cost analyses, if there are additional revenues to MSD associated with any alternative, they can be considered for incorporation into the analysis.

Estimators will assess all costs related to the initial capital investment based on estimating methodology as outlined earlier in this document. Based on the initial estimate of probable costs, the estimators will evaluate and assess all operation, repair, and maintenance costs including non-annual costs or cyclic costs, annual costs, and any startup costs as related to the initial capital investment. These cost assessments will begin in the year of the initial capital investment and over the useful life of the proposed project.

Each capital investment is unique, it is necessary to assign a useful life to major MSD capital assets. In most cases, generally accepted accounting principles require that capital assets be depreciated. Depreciation is the systematic and rational allocation of the historical cost of the capital assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful life assigned to a capital asset will directly affect the life cycle cost analysis. Once established, estimated useful life for major categories of capital assets should be periodically compared to MSD's actual experience and appropriate adjustments should be made to reflect this experience. The MSD Useful Life of Capital Assets are provided below:



**Table 3-1: Useful Life of Capital Assets (Years)**

CATEGORIES	USEFUL LIFE (YEARS)
<b>Building Category</b>	
Building Structures	50
Pump Station Structures	40
<b>Paving</b>	
Concrete	30
Asphalt	20
Gravel	10
<b>Conveyance Category</b>	
Force Mains	40
Gravity Sewers/Tunnels	100
Pipe Liners	50
<b>Equipment Category</b>	
Auxiliary Equipment	15
Computer Equipment	5
Process Equipment	25
Pumping Equipment	10
Electrical Equipment	20
HVAC Equipment	20
Instrumentation/Sensor Equipment	10

If alternatives are being compared with differing useful lives, the study period shall be based on the alternative with the longer useful life. Many alternatives will be comprised of assets with differing useful lives. The life of the alternative may thus reflect some assets with short useful lives and others with longer lives. The life of the alternative may thus reflect a weighted average, based on cost or investment, of the useful lives of those components, or reflect the life of the predominant assets being purchased or constructed. Professional judgment may be exercised in determining the useful lives of the alternatives with components with varying useful lives, and in selection of the analysis study period.

Assets with useful lives remaining at the end of the study or analysis period shall be depreciated utilizing straight line depreciation as outlined in section 3.1.1 to derive a residual value at the end of the analysis period. It should be noted that the useful life for capital assets listed in Table 3-1 above represents the average useful life for these assets and is meant to be used for the purpose of life cycle analysis and the present value cost analysis. These average useful life values do not necessarily represent the current status of the asset within its life cycle, which may vary from the average value depending on the individual asset conditions and applications. All life cycle cost assessments may be escalated as necessary to account for predicted market variability.

Life cycle costs shall be developed utilizing the LCCA Worksheet located in the [Capital Project Resource Library - Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati \(msdgc.org\)](https://msdgc.org/Capital-Project-Resource-Library).

### **3.1.1. Depreciation**

Depreciation is a form of capital recovery applicable to a property with a lifespan of more than one year, in which an appropriate portion of the asset's value is periodically decreased. The rationale underlying the depreciation concept is that physical assets lose value over time due to such factors as deterioration, wear, technological advancements, or obsolescence.

MSD will use the straight-line depreciation method which takes an equal amount of depreciation every year over the estimated useful life of the asset. The straight-line method takes the original cost less the salvage value divided by the number of years of life of the asset as follows:

Depreciation Straight Line Method:  $D = (C - S) / N$  Where:

D = Depreciation charge

C = Asset original cost

S = Salvage value

N = Asset useful life

While depreciation is not included in the present value calculations, residual values for assets shall be included in the LCCA evaluations unless exclusion of the residual value is approved by submitting a deviation based on best professional judgment.

## **3.2. Present Value Cost Analysis**

Building on the life cycle costs analysis, the present value cost analysis is adjusted to reflect the time value of money. This adjustment is accomplished by utilizing the MSD discount rate. In calculating the present value cost analysis, all future costs are discounted to their present value equivalent (as of the base date) using the MSD minimum acceptable rate of return. The present value of an asset has little meaning by itself; however, it is most useful when compared to the present value of all the alternatives which can perform the same function, in order to determine which alternative is most cost effective for this purpose.

### **3.2.1. MSD Discount Rate**

The discount rate is a financial metric used to determine the present value of future payments or expenditures. Discount rates may be real or nominal. Real discount rates apply to present value analyses where the costs and revenues are expressed in constant dollars (no inflation), while nominal discount rates apply to analyses where the costs and revenues are expressed in inflated dollars over the life of the project.

Historically, MSD has used the interest rate it is paying on recent bond issues as the basis for setting its discount rate. It must be understood that this interest rate is subsidized by virtue of the interest income received by the investors on the MSD's bonds not being subject to income tax. The Federal government borrowing does not receive a similar subsidy, and thus its borrowing cost may better reflect current market interest rates. Using the Federal government borrowing rate for analysis should only be considered once the source of the funding for a project is fully determined and shows that the Federal rate is more applicable.

The discount rate to bring future costs to their present value will be based on the current Bond Rate. In order to use the rate for calculations, a Real Interest Rate is needed, and the current Bond Rate is a Nominal Interest Rate and includes inflation. To remove inflation and adjust the rate, use the inflation rate calculated in the next section.

The current real discount rate to be used in conducting cost effectiveness analyses is as follows:

- Current Nominal Discount Rate (MSD Bond Rate) = 5%
- Inflation Rate from Section 3.2.2 = 2.1% (As of December 2024. See note on inflation rate in Section 3.2.2.)
- Calculation for Real Discount Rate =  $(1 + \text{MSD Bond Rate}) / (1 + \text{Inflation Rate}) - 1$  \* 100 =  $((1.05/1.021) - 1) * 100 = 2.8\%$

### **3.2.2. Inflation Rate**

Inflation is defined for MSD as a rise in the general price level of goods and services produced in the economy. It should be noted that this is not the only definition of inflation, but it is the most appropriate for MSD purposes. The definition involves rising prices for current output. Rising prices for bonds, equity claims (stocks), and existing durable goods. Also, the price increases must occur across many lines of goods and services.

The terms inflation and escalation, for this text, are not considered to be synonymous. The following will be assumed by MSD:

- Inflation incorporates the overall economy growth/recession impact to the economic evaluations and is measured by incorporating both national and local economic inflation forecasts. Inflation is applied to the growth of all costs over time that is not related to the initial capital investment.
- Escalation is then defined as those price level changes predicted to occur for specific types or groups of goods and/or services and is measured by the rate of rise of some product-price index in percent per year (i.e., construction cost index or labor cost index)

Note: if a good or service is being escalated over a given period, it should not be inflated during that same period, and vice versa.

This inflation rate is the same as the cost growth rate used by MSD's rate consultant as part of the annual revenue requirement study, which is used to set customer rates.

This update will be evaluated and finalized in the first quarter of each year.

The inflation rate is calculated from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Federal Real Discount Rate for projects of similar life as published every December (Circular A-94: Guidelines and Discount Rates for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Federal Programs). The appropriate discount rate will vary depending on the expected useful life of the project. For projects with a useful life of over 30 years, the 30-year bond interest rate will be used. For the life cycle cost analysis, costs and revenues will be expressed in constant dollars (not inflated), thus the real discount rate will be used. The current rates that are used to inflate all future cash flows are as follow from OMB Circular A-94:

- OMB Nominal Interest Rate for 30 year: 4.7% (As of December 2024. Check OMB Circular A-94 for latest rate.)
- OMB Real Interest Rate for 30 year: 2.5% (As of December 2024. Check OMB Circular A-94 for latest rate.)
- Calculation for Inflation Rate =  $((1 + \text{OMB Nominal Rate}) / (1 + \text{OMB Real Rate}) - 1) * 100 = ((1.047/1.025)-1) * 100 = 2.1\%$  (As of December 2024. Check OMB Circular A-94 for latest nominal and real interest rates.)

For life cycle cost analyses, costs will be expressed in current dollars and will not be inflated.

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## 4. PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

As a project's scope becomes more defined throughout Planning and Design, there may be instances when it is appropriate to deviate from the guidelines described in this manual. Deviation should only occur when the estimator utilizes best professional judgment and concludes that some individual guidelines do not match the project's expected costs. When it is justifiable that a deviation from the PCM is needed, it is necessary that documentation and approval processes are followed. This documentation should be noted in the Project Cost Estimate Template and the Estimate Report. The basis of deviation must include:

- a. Information regarding the basis of the proposed deviation(s).
- b. Clear documentation of the proposed deviation(s).
- c. Identification and the proposed plan for management of all associated financial risks due to the proposed deviation. If the anticipated financial risks due to a deviation of indirect costs is anticipated to be minimal and/or nonexistent, the submitting agent must document reasoning for a nonexistent risk category.

Proper approval must be obtained before the proposed deviation can be submitted. Proposed deviations should be transmitted to the MSD Project Manager via e-mail for review and approval by the MSD Standards Committee. The basis of deviation as outlined above must be included in the transmittal.

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## **5. ESTIMATE REVIEW PROCESS**

Estimates are a critical component in successful projects. It therefore is reasonable that the estimate should undergo a quality control process. The estimate should be evaluated not only for its quality and accuracy, but also to ensure that it contains all of the required information. When reviewing project cost analyses prepared by design consultants the Project Team within Wastewater Engineering will keep in mind the fundamentals described herein. The estimate review will be accomplished by critical assessment of the estimate and its associated documentation. The following section focuses on guidelines that Project Team will use to efficiently review estimates prepared by design consultants.

### **5.1. Basis of Evaluation**

Project Team will assess the following for the basis of the estimate.

- The estimate complies with this PCM.
- The cost analysis is organized and complete.
- Scope and cost assumptions have been clearly identified.
- Economic impact assumptions have been clearly identified.

### **5.2. Methodology**

Project Team will assess the following to ensure that methodology for analysis is sound:

- The methods, techniques, and procedures used in preparing the estimate are sound.
- The appropriate level of information available for the project type is available and being used.
- The financial analysis methods used for the economic analysis are appropriate.
- The level of detail in the analysis is sufficient for the purpose of the analysis.

### **5.3. Documentation**

Project Team will assess the following:

- If the estimate report is documented clearly and is complete as outlined herein.
- If the estimate report is well-organized and presented at an appropriate level of detail.

All comments or issues identified by the Project Team will be provided in the form of formal review comments as part of the project technical review.



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## **APPENDIX A - PDS MODULES**

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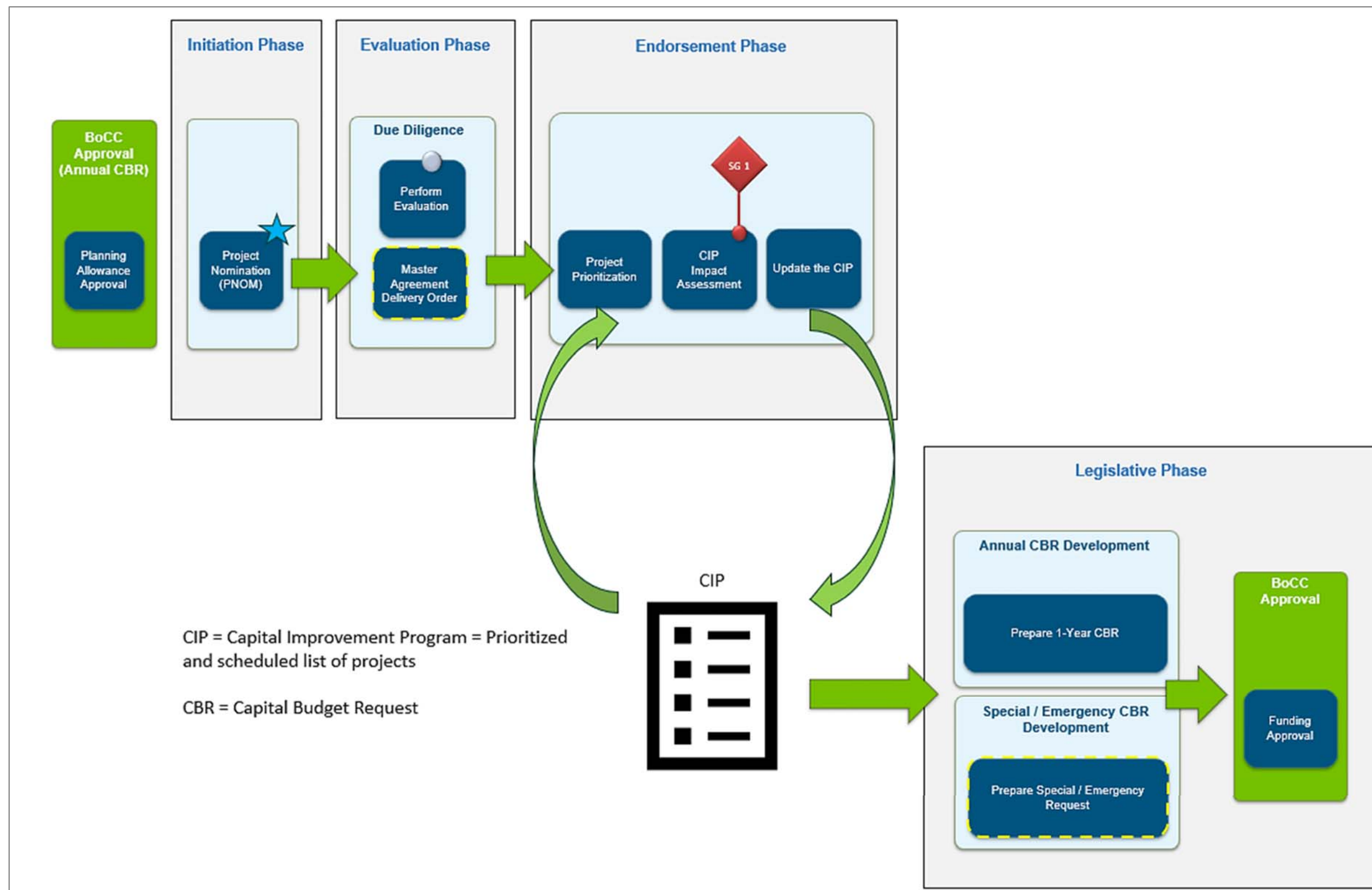


Figure A-1: PDS Module – Capital Planning Module (CPM)

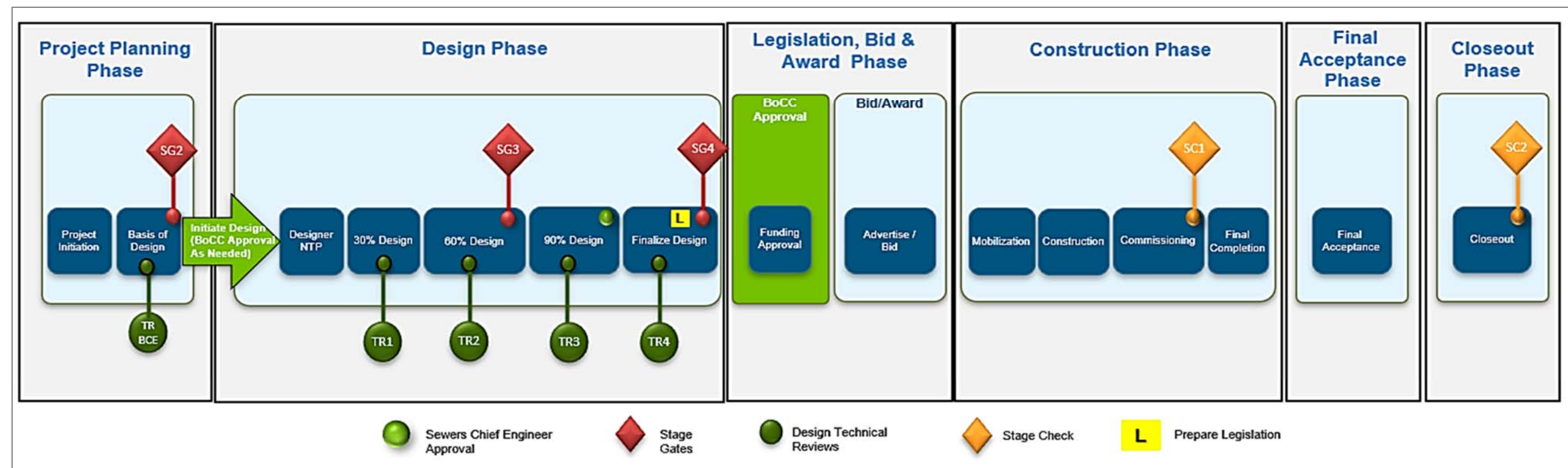


Figure A-2: PDS Module – Design Bid Build Delivery (DBB)

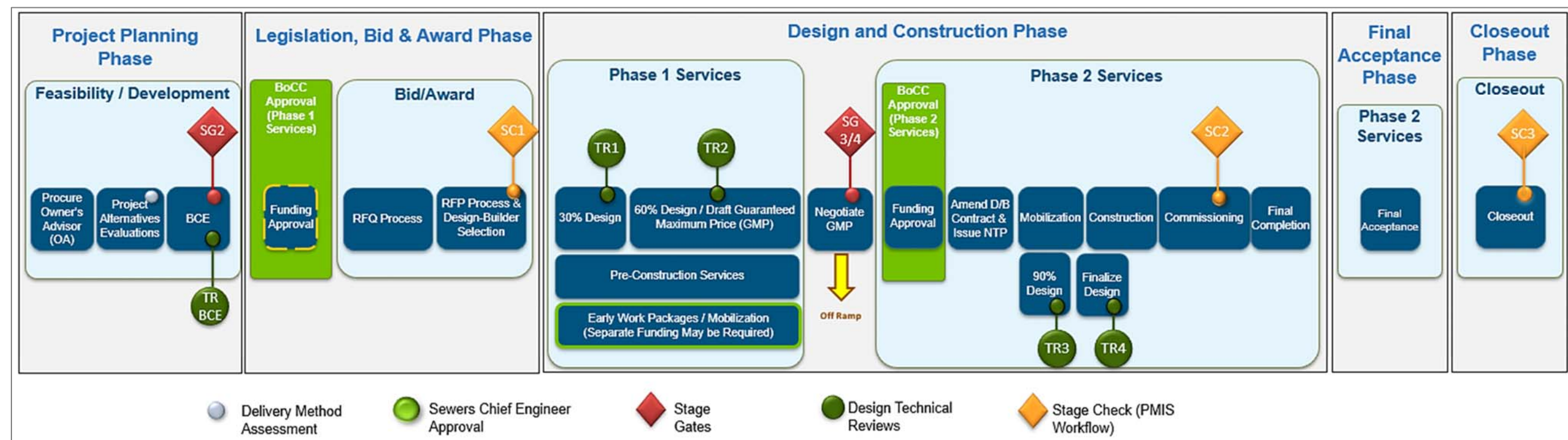



Figure A-3: PDS Module – Progressive Design Build (PDB)

**APPENDIX B - PROJECT COST ESTIMATE TEMPLATES**

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The images below are examples of templates to be used for project cost estimates.

Design-Bid-Build : Project Cost Estimate Summary



Project PID No.

Project Name

Project Type

Firm Name - Estimator Name

Date of Estimate

Class of Estimate

Escalation Dates

Facility Project with SCADA

2/1/2022

Class 4

2/10/2027

8/3/2028

<---(pick from drop down list)

<---(pick from drop down list)

Description

Conforms to PCM

Rate

Amount

Totals

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC)

Cost of Work (COW):

Contractor COW (Labor, Materials, Equipment, Other Costs to Create Asset)

Cost of Work Subtotal

Mark-Ups

General Conditions (per Table 2-3)

Contractor's Overhead & Profit (per Table 2-4)

Allowances

Project Contingency (per Table 2-5)

Construction Subtotal

Insurance (1% of the Construction Subtotal)

Bonds (1% of the Construction Subtotal)

Insurance & Bonds Subtotal

Escalation (3.5% per year To Midpoint of Construction)

Escalation Subtotal

Market Contingency (Consultant Evolution)

Market Contingency Subtotal

OPCC Total

Indirect Project Costs

Project Planning

Project Planning Professional Services (per Table 2-6)

Project Planning Subtotal

Design

Design Professional Services (per Table 2-6)

Design Subtotal

Pre-Construction

Pre-Construction Services (N/A for Design-Bid-Build)

Pre-Construction Services Subtotal

Construction Services

Construction Professional Services (per Table 2-6)

Construction Services Subtotal

Right-of-Way

Right-of-Way (per Table 2-6)

Right-of-Way Escalation (3.5% per year To Start Date of Construction)

Right-of-Way Subtotal

Miscellaneous Expense

Miscellaneous Expense (per Table 2-6)

Miscellaneous Expense Subtotal

Program Management

Program Management (Typically N/A for Design-Bid-Build)

Program Management Subtotal

Indirect Project Costs Total

Total Project Cost

\* If any items are not selected, estimator to provide detailed explanation within the estimate submittal


Cost Summary (LAR Format)	
Planning	\$ -
Design	\$ 3,110,000
Pre-Construction Services	\$ -
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 457,000
Right-of-Way	\$ -
Construction	\$ 47,500,000
Program Management	\$ -
Construction Services	\$ 7,890,000
Total Estimate	\$ 59,000,000

MSD Composite Index	3082	(per date of estimate)
MSD 2023 Baseline	3394	

ACCURACY RANGE		
MINUS	MEDIAN	PLUS
30%		50%
OPCC	Esc. to midpoint of construction	\$ 33,250,000 \$ 47,500,000 \$ 71,250,000
OPCC	(2023 \$)	\$ 29,260,000 \$ 41,800,000 \$ 62,700,000
Total Project Cost	Esc. to midpoint of construction	\$ 41,300,000 \$ 59,000,000 \$ 88,500,000
Total Project Cost	(2023 \$)	\$ 38,150,000 \$ 54,500,000 \$ 81,750,000

REVIEWED	Name	Date
MSD Project Controls	Donald Morehead	4/24/2025
MSD Project Management		

Scope of Work Summary (Optional)



1.

Figure B-1: Design-Bid-Build – Project Cost Estimate Summary



Progressive Design-Build : Project Cost Estimate Summary

Project PID No.

Project Name

Firm Name - Estimator Name

Date of Estimate

2/1/2022

Class of Estimate

Class 4

Escalation Dates

3/26/2031

4/29/2034

Start Date of Construction

Midpoint of Construction

Conforms to

PCM

Rate

Amount

Totals

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC)

Cost of Work (COW):

Design-Build COW (Labor, Materials, Equipment, Other Costs to Create Asset)

Project Contingency (per Table 2-5)

Allowances

Cost of Work Subtotal

Mark-Ups

General Conditions (per Table 2-7)

Design-Build Services Fee (per Table 2-7)

Construction Subtotal

Escalation (3.5% per year To Midpoint of Construction)

Escalation Subtotal

Market Contingency (Consultant Evaluation)

Market Contingency Subtotal

Services During Construction

Services During Construction (per Table 2-7)

Services During Construction Subtotal

OPCC Total

Indirect Project Costs

Project Planning

Project Planning Professional Services (per Table 2-7)

Planning Subtotal

Design

Design Services Fee (per Table 2-7)

Pre-Construction Fee (per Table 2-7)

Design Subtotal

Pre-Construction Services

Owner's Adviser Phase 1 Services (per Table 2-7)

Pre-Construction Services Subtotal

Construction Services

Owner's Adviser Phase 2 Services (per Table 2-7)

Construction Services Subtotal

Right-of-Way

Right-of-Way (per Table 2-7)

Right-of-Way Escalation (3.5% per year To Start Date of Construction)

Right-of-Way Services Subtotal

Miscellaneous Expense

Miscellaneous Expense (per Table 2-7)

Miscellaneous Expense Subtotal

Program Management

Program Management (Typically N/A for Progressive Design-Build)

Program Management Subtotal

Indirect Project Costs Total

Total Project Cost

\* If any items are not selected, estimator to provide detailed explanation within the estimate submittal

Cost Summary (LAR Format)	
Planning	\$ 2,910,000
Design	\$ 13,100,000
Pre-Construction Services	\$ 3,140,000
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 700,000
Right-of-Way	\$ 408,000
Construction	\$ 209,000,000
Program Management	\$ -
Construction Services	\$ 1,050,000
Total Estimate	\$ 230,000,000

MSD Composite Index	3082	(per date of estimate)
MSD 2023 Baseline	3394	

ACCURACY RANGE		
MINUS	MEDIAN	PLUS
50%		100%
OPCC	Esc. to midpoint of construction	\$ 104,500,000 \$ 209,000,000 \$ 418,000,000
OPCC	(2023 \$)	\$ 78,500,000 \$ 157,000,000 \$ 314,000,000
Total Project Cost	Esc. to midpoint of construction	\$ 115,000,000 \$ 230,000,000 \$ 460,000,000
Total Project Cost	(2023 \$)	\$ 90,000,000 \$ 180,000,000 \$ 360,000,000

REVIEWED	Name	Date
MSD Project Controls	Donald Morehead	4/24/2025
MSD Project Management		

Scope of Work Summary

Figure B-2: Progressive Design-Build – Project Cost Estimate Summary

Project Costing Manual Rev3.1

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## **APPENDIX C – DEVELOPMENT OF MSD COMPOSITE INDEX**

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A cost index is a dimensionless number used to adjust the cost of an item from one time period to another. Typically, an index documents the historic changes in cost as well as providing a mechanism for extrapolating this historic information to predict future cost changes. Although there are many existing general and more focused cost indices that are readily available, the basis of each index must be understood with regard to its specific project development characteristics before the user can assess which is most applicable to its work and location. Seldom does an index offer a perfect relationship but the index with the least individual application deficiencies is often accepted as a trade-off to its convenience.

Considering the size and complexity of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the intent of MSD to closely track all relevant cost-related issues over time, MSD reasoned that in the same time it takes to determine the application issues that a published cost index data would and wouldn't satisfy, the majority of the work has already been completed toward the preparation of a "customized" composite cost index. Research on this customizing concept reinforces that the follow-up effort needed to ensure continuing applicability of the published index will probably approach the magnitude of the effort to maintain an MSD-specific index. Moreover, this same research indicates that during a period of high rates of escalation, a customized index is more responsive to changing conditions.

The use of a customized MSD/Cincinnati Composite Cost Index (MI) is consistent with MSD's business model goal of remaining a leader in its industry. The value of this customized approach includes the following:

- Functional in providing a context for estimating data
- Capable of guiding special studies aimed at future cost reduction
- Transparent when documenting project costs
- Illustrates reasons for construction price fluctuations over time
- Provides accurate escalation factors for project commodity price projections
- Provides known capital expenditure factors for use in de-escalating dollars expended to compare with original and/or current approved baseline budgets.
- Flexible in the frequency of the publication and update, especially during rapid economic change.

The index concept pursued by MSD was to build on the many applicable published indices and develop a composite that takes the most applicable characteristics of each of those indices as they relate to MSD and its local influences. This approach has been adopted while MSD's estimating database grows more robust and comprehensive.

Certain elements of various indices related differently to MSD's work. These differences result in the varying weight given to each index. The development process for the MI identified that, after weighting indices within the National and Local areas, it was necessary to further weight the national portion at 30% and the local portion at 70% to better correspond the MI to price changes being realized in the local area.

The following table identifies the six (6) published indices and their relative weights that are used to calculate the MI.

INDEX	WEIGHT	
R.S Means (National)	30.0%	
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Trends	25.0%	
Engineering News Record Building Cost Index (National)	20.0%	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Construction Cost Index	25.0%	
National Portion		30%
R.S. Means (Cincinnati)	70.0%	
Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (Cincinnati)	30.0%	
Local Portion		70.0%
MSD Composite Index		

It may sometimes be necessary to report project costs in terms of what the project would have cost in some baseline year. This can be accomplished by multiplying the current project cost by the ratio between the current index and the baseline index.

## **APPENDIX D – RECORD OF REVISION**

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### 3.0 Revisions

Name	PCM Section	Description
Revision Number and Date	Cover Page	Version 3 Changed to Revision 3. Date updated to April 2025.
Record of Revision	Record of Revision	Added high level summary of changes to this revision and an additional signatory.
Requirement to Use	1. Background and Purpose	Added language clarifying the expectation that the manual and included templates will be used on all projects.
Deviations	1. Background and Purpose	Added a requirement that deviations from the manual must be approved in writing by the MSD Standards Committee.
Industry Standards	2. Project Cost Estimating	Added language reflecting MSD's approach as an adaptation of industry standards.
Estimate Classification	2.2 Estimate Classification	Redefined the classification level for some deliverables.
Estimate Classification	2.2 Estimate Classification	Added a second Classification System Table to distinguish between traditional and alternative delivery.
PDB Guidance	Multiple	Complete overhaul of all PDB definitions and markup guidance.
Program Contingency	2.7 Program-Wide Contingency	New figure added that shows the relationship between OPCC, Total Project Cost, Program Contingency and unmitigated risks.
Escalation	2.7.2 Markups	Added assumption of 3.5% annual escalation for future estimates, replacing usage of MSD's Composite Index. Removed Appendix B that described the development of the Composite Index.
Market Contingency	2.7.2 Markups	Added an additional requirement that an estimate must be at least Class 2 to include a Market Contingency.
2023 Conversion	2.6.5 Total Project Cost	Added requirement to report estimates in 2023\$ using the CPI for conversion.
Review Process	5. Estimate review Process	Removed references to the Quality Assurance Quality Control Section of WWE.
PDS Modules	Appendix A	Moved images and references to Program Delivery System to an appendix.
Templates	Appendix B	Updated Estimating Templates to reflect changes in the text of the manual.



### 3.1 Revisions

Name	PCM Section	Description
Revision Number and Date	Cover Page	Revision 3 Changed to Revision 3.1
Record of Revision	Record of Revision, Appendix D	Added high level summary of changes to this revision. Also added an expanded Record of Revision as Appendix D
2023 Conversion	2.6.5 Total Project Cost, Appendix C	Adjusted 2023 conversion to use MSD Composite Index. Added back the Appendix that describes the development of the Composite Index.
Templates	Appendix B	Updated Estimating Templates to reflect changes in the text of the manual.