

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 24, 2026

At approximately 8:00 a.m. Director McClean called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Directors MARK MONIN (Zoom), MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and WYATT McCLEAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager (Zoom), GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources (8:11 a.m.), VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering (Zoom), SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, Information Technology Manager (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, City of Laguna Woods (Zoom), JOSH PEREZ, Electrical Systems/SCADA Supervisor (8:43 a.m.), JANET FORDUNSKI, Member of the Public (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director McClean to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Engineering Action Items

Low Zone 1 Hydraulic Modification Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff has completed several presentations ahead of the public outreach efforts and are working to expedite the project's design and construction. She explained that the project is being driven by customer concerns regarding low water pressure. Staff issued a request for proposals for design consultant services, including geotechnical work, surveying, and traffic control. Staff received seven proposals and recommend JIG based on its initial easement and utility research, preliminary layout, and a clear understanding of key project constraints. Ms. Ford stated that staff awarded the first two tasks, which are within the General Manager's authority, to continue prioritizing customer concerns and to remain responsive to customers. The proposed action would amend the contract with JIG to allow the consultant to proceed with the third and fourth tasks.

Mr. Cafferty added that staff is exploring options to accelerate the project. Staff is considering bringing a contractor on board earlier than normal during the design phase. This option would allow the District to negotiate a cost with the contractor and allow the contractor to provide insight on the design, facilitate immediate construction award upon completion of the design, and pre-purchase some materials. This approach could reduce the overall project schedule by several months. The Board agreed that this option would be beneficial to the community and agreed to have staff to pursue it.

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Freshley made a Motion, seconded by Director Gaskins to authorize the District's General Manager to amend its contract with JIG Consultants in the amount of \$50,901.00 for final design of the Low 1 Zone Hydraulic Modification Project bringing the total contract amount to \$97,600 and to authorize the General Manager to fund the project costs from the District's Capital Reserves as recommended by staff in accordance with the District's adopted Capital Reserve Policy.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Engineering Information Items

El Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins reported that operations staff will be scheduling the arterial valves in October or November. He also stated that following a water leak, staff replaced approximately 16 feet of 8" pipe on Via Estrada. Ms. Ford added that staff collected a pipe and soil sample for lab testing.

Mr. Cafferty noted that the WRP battery storage system term year savings is on track to be the highest ever. He added that over time, the system has improved on being able to predict patterns and has therefore produced more savings.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that this project reached a major project milestone with the placement of a new concrete channel next to the Headworks. Underground yard piping and conduit installation is in progress, and staff is planning for a highline from the Northline Lift Station across the golf course over to the WRP, which will likely happen

the first week of October. The agreement with the Department of Energy is in review, which will allow receipt of the \$300,000 in grant funding.

Moulton/EI Toro Cathodic Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that after the contractor's additional testing for the impressed current cathodic protection system, two anode ground beds at one test station are no longer required. This reduced the cost by at least \$40,000. Staff is mobilizing to complete potholing by the end of the month, will install anode groundbeds at two test stations, and conduct another round of testing. Staff will analyze the test results and determine if the installation of anode groundbeds at another test station can be eliminated which would lead to another deduct change order of approximately \$100,000.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that staff finalized negotiations with Baker Electric & Renewables LLC (Baker) and Southern California Edison (SCE) to underground the utility that comes into the site. SCE has been collaborative and has set up temporary power for the station to run off while using District equipment. SCE will be inspecting the site soon and temporary-power will be cutover within the next couple of weeks. Afterwards, the canopy will be permanently lifted to place the electrical equipment underneath it. The project has been executed as efficiently as possible and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

SOCWA Effluent Transmission Main (ETM) Reach B Techite Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that CEQA and design efforts are moving forward. During geotechnical investigations, an SCE ductbank located within the District's WRP was inadvertently hit. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and SCE responded promptly.

District facilities were put on emergency generators, and there was no treatment impact

due to the outage. Power was fully restored to normal conditions within a day.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff met with the consultant and the contractor, and the project is near completion pending full vegetation establishment. The contractor has set up an irrigation system, and staff expect to have the project completed by the end of September.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that this project is in its holding pattern while staff coordinates with GRF and United Mutual related to the temporary construction and easement agreements needed for trail, sidewalk, and lane closures during construction.

Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

Ms. Ford reported she is currently at the Waste Reuse Annual Conference where she will be presenting on the topic of Tertiary Free Chlorine Disinfection at the WRP.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:42 a.m.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

There were no comments.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today in regards to item number two on today's Closed Session Agenda.

Closed Session

At approximately 8:43 a.m. everyone left the open session except President Freshley, Vice President Havens, Director Gaskins, Director McClean, General Counsel, Mr. Cafferty, Ms. Ford, Mr. Miazga, and Mr. Perez.

Regular Session

At approximately 9:01 a.m., the meeting returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

Open Session Report

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss item number two on today's Closed Session Agenda. During the Closed Session, Mr. Cafferty reported on the subject matter with discussions taking place among staff and the Board. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

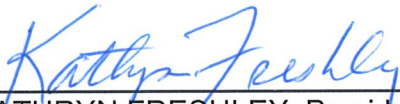
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MARISOL MELENDEZ
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



KATHRYN FRESHLEY, President
of the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof



DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
of the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof