

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 23, 2021

At approximately 9:10 a.m. Director Vergara called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Committee Members MIKE GASKINS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, JOSE VERGARA, MARK MONIN (via zoom), and KAY HAVENS participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, JUDY CIMORELL, Human Resources Manager (via zoom), JASON HAYDEN, CFO, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, HANNAH FORD, Engineering Manager, POLLY WELSCH, Recording Secretary (via zoom), and CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods Council Member (via zoom).

Consent Calendar

Director Vergara asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Freshley made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens and unanimously carried across the Board to approve the July 19, 2021 Engineering Committee meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Engineering Action Items

There were no action items.

## Engineering General Information Items

### Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Mr. Cafferty stated that our existing 9,800 meter inventory needs a replacement program as meters age and tend to under-register. He further stated that the replacement of 15-20 year old meters has been on hold until a decision is made about an AMI Program.

Mr. Cafferty stated that there are several thousand meters that exceed 20 years of age, and we are waiting to see if AMI works for the District. He further stated that the cost to replace all the existing meters with the current meter technology is \$1.7 million.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the cost to install the same amount of AMI capable meters is approximately \$2.8 million. Mr. Cafferty further noted that these costs are only the meter material cost and it would be very difficult for staff to catch up on meter replacements without contractor assistance. He further stated that we are also looking at Grant opportunities.

Mr. Cafferty stated that we are going to need to decide whether or not to pursue the AMI meter replacement program, and if not, we need to begin our own meter replacement program. Mr. Cafferty further stated that the financial analysis of the Certificates of Participation issuance will evaluate the impact of funding an AMI project.

Director Monin stated that it appears only 20% of people around us are using AMI, is this correct. Mr. Cafferty replied that MNWD, SCWD, Newport Beach, and Laguna Beach are using AMI, so north of 50% of neighboring agencies are using AMI.

Director Monin asked why some agencies are still in AMR and have not gone to AMI. Mr. Cafferty replied that it's the cost to build the data transmission system.

Director Monin suggested that the District could install AMI compatible meters

until we eventually consider going to AMI. Mr. Cafferty confirmed the suggestion is possible but staff has not analyzed the scheduling or phasing issues with such an approach.

Director Havens asked by using this data transmission, are we subject to hacking. Mr. Cafferty replied yes, but the District would build the system with security measures in place.

Director Vergara asked if any agency has not implemented AMI because their Union opposes it. Mr. Cafferty replied not that he has heard.

Vice President Freshley asked if we would be putting in towers to capture the data. Mr. Cafferty replied that it is one option we considered, with cellular being another.

Director Vergara suggested that staff keep the Board posted until we have more data.

Director Monin asked about the cost of AMI meters versus the cost of analog normal meters. Mr. Cafferty replied that if we were to replace every meter in the system, the total cost just to buy the meters is \$1.7 million. He further stated that for the same number of meters with the AMI capability, it's \$2.8 million.

Director Monin asked if we divide \$1.7 million by how many meters, what is the cost per meter. Mr. Cafferty replied that 9,800 meters divided by \$1.7 million is approximately \$173 per analog meter, but the unit cost for a 5/8" meter is about \$170 plus tax, and the unit cost for a 2" meter is \$685 plus tax.

Director Monin asked for the amount of each meter as AMI. Mr. Cafferty replied that the cost per AMI meter would be \$285.

Director Monin asked if this project could be done in phases. Mr. Cafferty replied

that if we are funding the project through COP's, we would try to use the money within 3 years, so we could phase the project throughout a 3-year period.

#### ETWD Capital Project Status Report

##### Phase II Recycled Water Distribution System Expansion Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that upon receipt of the on-site rebates, the Phase II Recycled Water project will be complete. He further stated that all of the Phase II meters are on-line.

##### Oso Lift Station Improvement Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that the new pump station is operating, and the remaining part of the project is demolition of the existing pump station building, and installing the new generator. He further stated that this project should be complete in October.

Mr. Cafferty stated that we now have clear documentation of our ownership of the property.

Director Monin stated that he would like to be able to park there on the weekend and have the pylons removed.

##### Filter Plant Building/WEROC EOC

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff has issued the request for proposals and worked with MWDOC on the generation of proposals through the PlanetBids portal. He further stated that proposals are due on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and staff will bring a design proposal to the Board in October.

Mr. Cafferty stated that only one consultant (Brady) attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. He further stated that Brady is the consultant that completed the original Alternatives Analysis. Mr. Cafferty noted that the selection of Brady for the Alternatives Analysis phase of the project was based on a competitive evaluation of four



proposals. Mr. Cafferty suggested that other firms might have avoided the cost of preparing a proposal feeling that Brady had a competitive advantage.

#### R-6 Reservoir Cover Replacement & Improvement Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that design continues and the Consultant (Hilts Consulting Group) has prepared a Technical Memorandum that addresses a variety of design issues, which staff is reviewing. He further stated that one of the key questions they are asking is the material selection for the cover.

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff met with the Consultant, SMWD, and MNWD to discuss the selection of a material for the cover and the implications of leaving the existing liner in place. He further stated that staff is coordinating with a diver to retrieve samples of the liner material below the water level to conduct further testing of the liner material properties in order to make a more informed decision about the remaining useful life of the liner.

#### Main Office HVAC Replacement and Improvement Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff is working with a structural engineer looking at the weight capacity of the roof relative to the a/c units.

#### Aeration Basin Diffuser Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that the District received notice of a delay due to COVID related material supply chain challenges. He further stated that the project is currently in the submittal phase, and materials are expected in November, with completion by the end of December.

#### OOPS Generator Replacement Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that this project is also affected by the COVID related material

supply chain challenges, which has doubled the lead time.

#### WRP Main Electrical Power Breakers Replacement Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that we have just issued the contract.

#### Phase III Recycled Water Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff is reviewing a Phase III Recycled Water project. He further stated that staff is focusing on the Gate 11 area, Mill Creek, and Gate 1.

#### JTM Pump Station Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff is working with Tetra Tech to develop a cost estimate for the construction of the JTM pump station, and will provide a detailed evaluation of costs and benefits at an upcoming Board meeting.

#### Energy Efficiency Analysis

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff has met with SoCalRen and AESC to discuss findings and recommendations on operational changes that do not require infrastructure investment.

#### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

There were no comments.

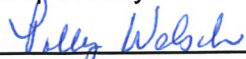
#### Close Engineering Committee Meeting

At approximately 10:15 a.m. the Engineering Committee meeting was closed.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
POLLY WELSCH  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



MIKE GASKINS, 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