

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2022

At approximately 9:00 a.m. Director Vergara called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

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

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

Consent Calendar

Director Vergara asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens and carried across the Board to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Engineering Action Items

Ammonia Analyzer at WRP

Ms. Ford stated that purchasing an ammonia analyzer on the secondary effluent at the WRP would help us reduce energy consumption in the Aeration Basins and

chlorine consumption for tertiary disinfection. She further stated that adjusting the control of the Aeration Basin blowers to factor in secondary effluent ammonia results in improved efficiency for the highest energy consumption process at the WRP.

Ms. Ford stated that SoCalRen provided an optimistic estimate of approximately \$72,000 in savings, although this solution may not realize that full amount.

Ms. Ford stated that staff recommends funding the project as a 50/50 split between wastewater capital and recycled water reserves.

Director Monin asked why is ammonia used in potable water. Ms. Ford replied that it is used for the chloramines which is a longer lasting chlorine action agent.

Director Vergara asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Freshley made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens and carried across the Board to authorize the General Manager to issue a purchase order to Hach Company in the amount of \$51,628.29 for the purchase of an ammonia analyzer.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Northline Lift Station Emergency Repair

Mr. Cafferty stated that a small leak appeared on the 16" force main conveying wastewater from the Northline Lift station to the Plant. He further stated that the leak spilled onto a walking path in front of Northline but did not reach a storm drain.

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff contacted Paulus Engineering who came to the site immediately to assess repair options. He further stated that this repair had to be done

overnight which resulted in overtime for them and when the bypass had to be put in across the golf course to the headworks at the Plant, created additional overtime.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the golf course worked with staff, and we were able to implement the repair on a day that the golf course was closed. He further stated that the spill was estimated to be 250 gallons.

Mr. Cafferty expressed gratitude to our staff who did an exemplary job responding to the incident and working to avoid any further overflow, as well as working with the contractor to facilitate the repair. Mr. Hopkins concurred with Mr. Cafferty's gratitude to our staff and the contractor.

Director Vergara asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by President Freshley and carried across the Board to approve the payment of the Paulus Engineering, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$74,446.38 for the emergency repair of the Northline Lift Station force main.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Engineering General Information Items

Filter Plant Site use Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that this facility has been unused and abandoned for over 35 years. He further stated that it is in advanced state of deterioration and is becoming a liability.

Mr. Cafferty stated that potential uses for demolishing the old building and building a new one could be an equipment storage facility for existing assets such as portable trailers, emergency generators, electrical material storage, and other material storage. He further provided a cost estimate for demolition only, demolition and building a new warehouse, and MWDOC's building a new EOC for WEROC.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the design is nearly complete on the demolition and staff intends to solicit bids in June. Mr. Cafferty further stated that there are nesting season challenges that will impact the construction schedule. Ms. Ford stated that we need to award a construction contract in July in order to complete the work by the end of January when the nesting season begins.

Director Monin stated that he is in favor of the demolition but not rebuilding at this time as we have a lot of other capital projects in progress.

Director Vergara asked if we demolish the warehouse, will we also need to demolish the existing EOC building. Mr. Cafferty replied no, it's an office building that WEROC is using and it is not deteriorating like the warehouse.

Director Monin suggested installing solar panels where we could park vehicles underneath as there may be some energy advantage to this. Mr. Cafferty replied that the primary benefit of solar projects is to offset electrical use at a site and there is little electrical power demand at the location.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the cost in 2019 was \$1.7 million for the demo and now costs are approximately \$2.4 million.

Director Vergara asked Mr. Cafferty for his recommendation. Mr. Cafferty stated that the building has become more expensive than originally estimated but construction of the facility will provide benefits to the District for decades to come and recommends



the District should build the building.

Director Vergara and Vice President Havens expressed support for construction of the building.

Mr. Cafferty noted that there is no action item agendaized at this meeting relative to construction of the proposed storage facility. Mr. Cafferty further stated that with the noted exception of Director Monin staff feels there is a consensus of the Board to continue to construction. Mr. Cafferty stated that staff will continue to work with the consultant to complete the design and bring the project back to the Board at a future meeting for specific action relative to approval of construction of the storage building.

#### Capital Projects Status Report

##### Aeration Basin Diffuser Project

Ms. Ford stated that this project has completed the commissioning phase, and staff is working on project close-out.

##### R-6 Floating Cover and Liner Replacement Project

Ms. Ford stated that we have completed final design and are ready to put it out to bid. She further stated that our consultant has other on-going projects and recommends that we bid ahead of schedule to get the submittal process moving.

Ms. Ford stated that staff filed the Notice of Exemption for CEQA and received no comments within the 30-day public comment period. She further stated that we will now be preparing a contingency plan for taking the R-6 Reservoir offline.

Ms. Ford stated that we put out the RFP for the inspection services and received responses from 2 of the 4 firms and are expecting them to submit proposals.

### JTM Pump Station Project

Ms. Ford stated that staff received 3 proposals for the pre-purchase pump and motor; the lowest cost pump was not selected, but we did select the lowest lead time. She further stated that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been posted at the District office.

### R-2 Reservoir Interior Recoating Project

Ms. Ford stated that Associated Tank Constructors cut a doorway into the side of the R-2 Reservoir at ground level and removed the existing liner from the floor and walls to a height of 8 feet. She further stated that we continue to work with DWR on the project so the grant agreement is not yet finalized.

### The Village at Laguna Hills

Ms. Ford stated that staff met with the developer and engineering consultants to coordinate. She further stated that the developer is planning to split into phases the demolition, make-ready, and construction of retail, hotel, residential, and offices and plans to begin as soon as September.

Ms. Ford stated that the first component is expected to be the retail component and may be online as early as 2026. She further stated that staff conducted a water supply assessment with Arcadis a year or so ago, which is still valid so we won't have an issue supplying water.

Ms. Ford stated that the sewer flows will go to Aliso Creek Lift Station, which may require improvements to handle the additional flow.

### Water and Sewer Master Plan Update

Ms. Ford stated that Carollo's subconsultant removed the flow monitors in the sewer after 2 months of measurement; pressure monitors remain in the water

distribution system. She further stated that Info Water Pro was chosen for the water model, and Info Works for the sewer model.

#### Caltrans I-5 Widening Utility Relocations

Ms. Ford stated that Caltrans will begin Phase B which consists of 2 main portions. The first is the relocation of existing irrigation meter and backflow preventer for an irrigation area adjacent to the freeway wall. The second is to establish a bypass of sewage for a segment underneath the I-5 freeway, installation of the 10-inch sewer main, abandonment of a manhole, and demolition of an existing 10-inch sewer main. She further stated that Phase B is planned to begin in the middle of June.

#### Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford stated that a lot of the projects in the capital budget address the outcome of the Energy Analysis.

#### Board Room Expansion Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that a second opinion regarding the architect's estimate indicated it may be too low; therefore, expansion is too costly to pursue at this time. We had another company take a look at the room in an effort to consider a more efficient way to utilize the space and provide better technology.

#### Phase II LRP Agreement

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff met with MET to discuss modifications to the LRP Agreement language, and MET stated that staff has agreed to an amendment allowing us to segregate the capital costs to the tertiary plant vs. the distribution system to better facilitate the rebates.

#### Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

There were no comments.

### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Mr. Cafferty stated that the California Coastal Commission has denied the permit for Poseidon's Huntington Beach Desal Plant.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:25 a.m.

### Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session at today's meeting.

### Closed Session

At approximately 10:25 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session as agendized on today's Closed Session agenda. Also at this time, Ms. Ford, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Hayden, Ms. Cimorell, and Ms. Welsch left the meeting.

### Regular Session/Report

At approximately 10:30 a.m. regular session resumed. Also at this time, Ms. Welsch returned to the meeting.

Mr. Granito reported that the Board did go into Closed Session as agendized on today's Closed Session agenda to discuss both items.

Mr. Granito reported that during the first phase of the Closed Session the General Manager led a discussion on item #1 of today's Closed Session agenda, and no reportable action was taken.

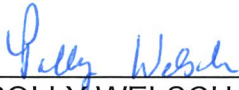
Mr. Granito reported that during the second phase of the Closed Session, Special Counsel, General Counsel, and the General Manager led a discussion on item #2 of today's Closed Session agenda, and no reportable action was taken.




Adjournment


At approximately 10:30 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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POLLY WELSCH  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

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

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

