

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 25, 2024

At approximately 7:50 a.m. Director Freshley called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Committee Members MARK MONIN, MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and FRED ADJARIAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant/Payroll, (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), and POLLY WELSCH, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

## Engineering Action Items

### Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Mr. Harnisch stated that this process at the Water Recycling Plant (WRP) has been offline since early 2021; the District originally hired SS Mechanical for a project to expose concrete aggregate, failed coatings, and corroded aluminum supports for grating in the Grit Chamber. He further stated that the District suspended the contract with SS Mechanical to address additional modifications to improve mechanical and electrical efficiency of the system.

Mr. Harnisch stated that SS mechanical had not made significant progress other than the purchase of a slide gate, which the District paid for. He further stated that the District hired Carollo Engineers to design the additional scope to include low pressure air piping, airlift pumps, grit piping, relocation of an existing local control panel, installation of a new variable frequency drive unit with panel, and refurbishment of the existing blower.

Mr. Harnisch stated that seven contractors were invited to bid the project, and none proposed. He further stated that staff then contacted three additional contractors and re-bid the project in December 2023. Staff opened one bid on March 13<sup>th</sup> from Kingmen Construction for \$814,900.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Cafferty stated that during regular inspections of the collection system, staff identified seven manholes in need of rehabilitation. He further stated that due to exposure to the corrosive environment generated by wastewater, the condition of the manholes has deteriorated over time.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the District requested proposals from two contractors: Sancon Technologies, Inc. and Zebron Contracting, Inc. He further stated that Zebron was almost three times the cost of Sancon's proposal.

Mr. Cafferty stated that Sancon is confident in their ability to execute the project, and staff recommends awarding the contract to Sancon.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

## Engineering Information Items

### Asset Management Plan Digital Dashboard Demonstration

Ms. Ford gave a presentation of the WRP Asset Management Plan Digital Dashboard.

### ETWD Operations Report

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff has made significant progress on the valve turning on a weekly basis.

Director Freshley asked how difficult it is to get to these valves. Mr. Hopkins replied that some are in the street and sometimes blocked by parked vehicles.

### Capital Projects Status Report

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

Ms. Ford stated that staff is refilling the R-6 Reservoir this month as MET reduces the contribution of State Water Project water to the Diemer Water Treatment Plant thereby reducing the concentration of Trihalomethanes in the treated water supply. She further stated that staff aims to complete the fill in time for the Allen-McColloch Pipeline shutdown on April 5th.

### New Warehouse

Mr. Harnisch stated that the contractor, Dumarc Corporation, resumed work inside the building with electrical lighting, interior sheathing, exhaust fan, window trim, and soffit installation. He further stated that staff is coordinating with the Air Quality Management District and their contractor to install a concrete pad, electrical duct bank, and equipment.



### Mathis Lift Station Inlet Piping Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that the contractor, Tunnel Works Service, Inc., installed the cured-in-place pipe lining in the influent sewer pipeline of the Mathis Lift Station in February. He further stated that they will return to install a sewage collection bowl with drop pipe at the upper inlet penetration and plug the lower inlet penetration of the wet well at the end of March.

### Northline Coating Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that the contractor, MC Painting, Inc., repaired the concrete behind the previous liner at each hatch location and at the entrance structure to the Northline Lift Station wet well. He further stated that staff rented a bypass pump in order for the contractor to perform the work in the entrance structure, and the contractor is scheduled to complete the final repairs by the end of March.

### Aliso Creek Lift Station Alternatives Analysis

Mr. Harnisch stated that Tetra Tech discussed the flow monitoring study results and comments on the draft report with staff, and is now working to finalize the report for submission in April.

### Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford stated that staff met with Carollo Engineers, Inc. (Carollo) to discuss the polymer system, electrical design, controls, and construction sequencing, and Carollo will submit the second part of the Basis of Design Report by the end of the month. She further stated that staff finalized a test plan for full scale polymer addition upstream of Dissolved Air Flootation and plans a 6-week pilot test upon receipt of the free unit from the vendor.

### Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford stated that the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) received the tracer study findings and plans to return comments in early April. She further stated that, following acceptance of the DDW findings, Trussell Technologies, Inc. will finalize the proposal to lower the free chlorine concentration times and submit to DDW for review and approval.

### System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study

Ms. Ford provided an overview of the three types of projects the System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study recommended for inclusion in the CIP. Ms. Ford further stated that the 10-year CIP will focus on the Priority 1 projects that provide adequate protective devices in the electrical system to improve life safety. Ms. Ford noted that District staff will address Priority 2 and 3 projects, which address adequate working space and clearance around electrical, when possible.

### Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford stated that staff has been working with InPipe Energy on implementation of an energy recovery system at the Main Pressure Reducing station. She further stated that she included an isometric sketch of the proposed HydroXS turbine which would be located in lieu of one of the four parallel pressure reducing valves at the Main Pressure Reducing station. Ms. Ford noted that initial costs for the system are approximately \$200,000 with a projected payback of 8 years.

### Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

There were no comments.

## Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Director Adjarian handed out a presentation he provided to UCI Water Initiative in 2017 on Water Infrastructure: California's Aging Lifeline.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:13 a.m.

### Regular Session

### Attorney Report

Mr. Granito report that there is no need for a Closed Session today, and as such Regular Session continued.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



POLLY WELSCH  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



MARK MONIN, 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

