

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 24, 2024

At approximately 8:20 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, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (8:20 a.m.), SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Use Efficiency Analyst (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant/Payroll (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Adjarian 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

### Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that staff are still dealing with issues related to pumping capacity and lack of truck access for cleaning. Mr. Harnisch further stated that in a 2023 Alternative Analysis Study, Tetra Tech Inc. recommended Alternative 1C, which adds a new wet well and in doing so will resolve on site issues and achieve the necessary capacity while improving operation and reliability. Mr. Cafferty added that this recommendation came about after a very interactive process involving District staff. Mr. Harnisch stated the District received and reviewed three proposals for the final design of the Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Harnisch further stated that all three were carefully evaluated, and District staff recommend award to Tetra Tech.

President Monin stated that he has been very impressed with Engineering staff but asked if there was anything done to cut costs on this project. Ms. Ford explained that there was a lot of constraints because of location and tight space but some of the advantages Tetra Tech has include experience in dewatering and shoring, as well as the inclusion of the electrical equipment housing which would ensure extended equipment life. Ms. Ford added that Tetra Tech also has FEMA grant funded project experience, which the District is intending to pursue.

Director Havens asked when construction would be starting. Ms. Ford explained that construction will be at least one year delayed following design completion and is included in the CIP budget starting fiscal year 2026/2027 however, the construction timeline will depend on FEMA funding.

Director Freshley asked for total construction cost amount. Ms. Ford stated construction cost would be in the seven-million-dollar range. Mr. Cafferty added that this project is budgeted in the ten-year plan but we are hoping to receive FEMA funding which, if approved would cover potentially 75% of the project cost.

Director Freshley asked if the construction on the Laguna Hills Mall would interfere with this project. Mr. Cafferty explained that mall construction would possibly be starting at the end of 2024 but the most impactful phase (residential) would likely not be constructed until well after the Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation project.

Director Adjarian asked if Tom Epperson is going to manage the project and if an inquiry was made with Moulton Niguel Water District about their work with Tetra Tech. Ms. Ford explained that Tom Epperson would be involved but will designate less expensive staff for certain administrative work. Mr. Harnisch stated that we received great references and positive feedback from Moulton Niguel Water District.

Ms. Ford additionally stated that all consultants who submitted interest were thoroughly reviewed to ensure fair ranking and decision making.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Adjarian made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to approve the Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project.

Roll Call Vote:

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

### New Warehouse Security System

Mr. Harnisch stated that Johnson Controls Inc. and Convergent Inc. both submitted proposals for this project and that both upfront installation and annual maintenance costs were considered. Mr. Harnisch further stated that Convergent was ultimately selected for this project and as a result, the District would save over \$6,500.00 over the course of ten years.

President Monin asked if we could get a break on costs through our insurance due to the added security. Mr. Cafferty stated we can check with JPIA to see if this is an option.

President Monin asked for explanation of the alarm response processes. Mr. Cafferty explained that if the cameras detect motion the vendor will notify the District and District staff will respond to alarms as long as it is safe to do so but will otherwise contact the Sheriff's department to respond.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Gaskins a Motion, seconded by President Monin to approve the New Warehouse Security System.

#### Roll Call Vote:

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



## Engineering Information Items

### ETWD Operations Report

Mr. Cafferty states the Operations Report now includes a page on the progress of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions status which continues to be a collaborative effort from several departments. Director Havens stated she would like to see more labeling on the report to limit confusion to the public. Mr. Cafferty stated adjustments can be made to the graph.

Director Freshley stated that she is pleased with the Operations report and finds it informative due to the importance of communication to the Board.

Director Havens pointed out that the nitrite levels are slightly increasing. Mr. Hopkins explained that nitrite levels are regularly monitored and if they see an issue, action is immediately taken. Mr. Cafferty further explained the chlorine residual process and that, if action is required, staff will respond by flushing the system.

Director Havens also noted that the minimums stats of the chlorine residual monitoring were not displayed on the graph. Mr. Cafferty stated staff will ensure those stats are there in the future.

Director Freshley asked for an explanation of the WRP battery storage system data. Mr. Cafferty stated this page includes data since its inception to track performance and the result is that there has been over \$95,000.00 in savings. Director Freshley stated that she recalls the peaks in demand were being clipped which was saving money on half of the utility bill but would like to know if it is being looked at from a point of view of energy saving rather than money saving. Ms. Ford stated that staff met with Stem and expressed our concerns to which they responded and assured they would review the algorithm to address District needs.

## El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

### New Warehouse

Mr. Harnisch stated the general contractor is currently offsite but they are anticipating electrical equipment to arrive in early September and for final site paving to be completed around the same time. Mr. Harnisch further stated that coordination with AQMD continues and that the schedule has now caught up with the budget which is why the percent completes are now roughly the same.

### Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Mr. Harnisch stated the project is nearing the end of the submittal phase and staff anticipates Kingmen Construction will be on site in early July.

### Caltrans I-5 Widening Utility Relocations

Mr. Harnisch stated certain manholes were reworked as a result of a new street extension. Mr. Harnisch further stated that staff is waiting for Caltrans to redo the sidewalk so the manhole closest to the SCE pole can be realigned, which should complete the remaining work on this project.

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

Ms. Ford stated that 60% design submittal is underway and results from the pilot operation concluded that total solids are increasing with polymer addition but an economic evaluation will be done in early July to decide on project direction moving forward.

Ms. Ford further stated an amendment had to be awarded to the design contract in order to comply with current seismic codes.

Director Freshley asked if FEMA funding can be pursued to meet the requirement. Ms. Ford stated unfortunately pursuing FEMA funding would delay the project approximately one year.

#### Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance

Ms. Ford stated that a contractor will do any necessary excavations. Ms. Ford further stated staff confirmed the material in 24 meter boxes at the end of May, which means the contractors scope of work has reduced.

#### Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford stated staff is awaiting response from DDW on the revised proposal, which is anticipated to arrive in July.

#### Asset Management Program

There were no comments.

#### WRP Main Electrical Power Breaker

Ms. Ford stated that the WRP is scheduled to be shut down this week in order to install the fourth pole on the new ATSS.

#### System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study

There were no comments.

#### R-6 Reservoir and Main Office Security System

Ms. Ford stated the remaining contract details are in progress.

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

There were no comments.

### Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford that staff is continuing to explore two different companies to look at a more holistic system evaluation. Ms. Ford stated that District staff is also looking into operational changes that could potentially qualify the District for \$15,000.00 in SCE rebates.

Ms. Ford stated that the next fiscal year's schedule is included in the package.

### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Vice President Gaskins stated that he has noticed the street driving into the plant does not have a name. Mr. Cafferty stated that it is an access road, not a public street, but will investigate options regarding potential naming of the street.

Director Adjarian asked when the last service contract with Highmark was reviewed. Mr. Cafferty explained a third-party detailed evaluation on Highmark's performance was done in 2017. Mr. Cafferty further stated that retirement investment processes can be part of the 2025 strategic planning if necessary.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 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 9:39 a.m.



Respectfully submitted,



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MARISOL MELENDEZ  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



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MARK MONIN, 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

