

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 20, 2024

At approximately 8:00 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, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager, VU CHU, Water Use Efficiency Analyst (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant/Payroll (Zoom), MICHAEL SNOW, Chief Plant Operator, RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer, POLLY WELSCH, Recording Secretary, and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Adjarian 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

Introduction of New Employee

Mr. Cafferty introduced the District's recently hired Chief Plant Operator, Michael Snow, to the Board of Directors.

Engineering Action Items

Resolution No. 24-5-1 P-3 Pump Station Generator Project FEMA Hazard Mitigation

Grant Program Application Match Commitment Documentation

Ms. Ford stated that it can be challenging to find grant opportunities that are suitable for the District's capital projects. Ms. Ford stated the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds up to 75% of the total project costs and that the remaining 25% would be funded by the District's carryover capital reserve. Ms. Ford explained that a stationary generator is needed at the P-3 Pump Station noting that if power to the P-3 Pump Station were to go offline, a portable generator would need to be used, which is not ideal during an emergency situation. Ms. Ford noted that upon submission of the grant application in June 2024, FEMA will notify the District whether the project has been successfully awarded in early 2025. She further stated that notice to proceed may lag another year following notice of award but the District will have four years to complete the project after notice to proceed.

Ms. Ford explained that P-3 is located near a high fire and medium earthquake susceptibility zone, which makes it eligible for FEMA HMGP funding. Director Adjarian asked for the approximate generator size that would be needed for this project. Ms. Ford stated that the project would require approximately a 350-kilowatt generator but this information will be confirmed during the formal design process.

Director Freshley asked if P-3 pumps wastewater. Mr. Cafferty explained that P-3 is a water pump station that pumps water out of the R-3 reservoir to the same hydraulic grade as the rest of the pressure zone.

Director Havens stated that P-3 is surrounded by eucalyptus trees and a house burned down in that area in the last fire.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the backup power at this facility was previously a propane fueled Oldsmobile engine that is no longer in use. He further stated the current back up is the portable generator but it would be preferable to utilize a stationary generator.

Director Freshley asked if the generator is going to be diesel powered and further mentioned that there is natural gas availability in the area. Mr. Cafferty explained that the generator would likely be diesel powered but natural gas would be considered during the design process noting that both reliability and cost factors would be considered during decision making.

Director Havens commented that the Oldsmobile engine still has a propane tank. Mr. Cafferty stated that the propane tank is still there, but the engine is no longer functioning.

Director Freshley asked for clarification on kilowatt sizing. Ms. Ford explained that the generator size is 350 kilowatts but the draw is typically lower. Ms. Ford further explained that the main reason for a need of a backup generator at P-3 is because if there were a fire in the nearby large open space, we would need to meet the demand immediately. Mr. Cafferty stated that when the master plan was revisited years ago, the need for P-3 was reviewed and that during this review, it was determined that the potential fire risk required the pump station capacity.

Vice President Gaskins commented that Laguna Beach County Water District has a pump station next to Barbara's Lake.

Director Adjarian asked for the reservoir's volume in terms of storage. Mr. Cafferty stated that the volume is two-million gallons. Director Adjarian asked if any thought was given to double the reservoirs storage size given the potential for fire. Mr. Cafferty explained that there is not enough land to increase the reservoir's diameter but there is a combined 10 million gallons of storage in the District's nearby reservoirs.

President Monin applauded the District's efforts in pursuing grants for projects.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Adjarian made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to approve Resolution No. 24-5-1 P-3 Pump Station Generator Project FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Match Commitment Documentation.

Roll Call Vote:

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

New Turbo Blower

Ms. Ford stated that in 1995, three centrifugal blowers were installed. She further stated in 2014, one of the blowers was replaced with a more efficient turbo blower which became the workhorse. Ms. Ford added that about 25% of the time, one of the centrifugal blowers has to be used to provide additional air. Ms. Ford stated one of the centrifugal blowers failed catastrophically, resulting in a lack of a true back up for the 25% of the time when one of these two centrifugal blowers was needed. Ms. Ford noted a cost-effective temporary solution was found by purchasing a used blower from

Municipibids but added that this used blower is a temporary fix. Ms. Ford recommended purchasing a new turbo blower that will improve efficiency and provide the necessary back up for this critical process. Ms. Ford stated purchasing a new turbo blower is budgeted for the next fiscal year but staff recommends purchasing now due to the long lead time. Ms. Ford added after submittals are approved, it will take seven months to receive the blower. Ms. Ford stated the total project costs include installation, equipment, and a harmonic filter which will total approximately \$0.5 million dollars. President Monin commended staff for purchasing the used blower off of Municibid for \$5,000.

Director Freshley asked for clarification on the need for a harmonic filter. Ms. Ford stated that due to a very high horsepower drive the added protection will extend the longevity of the equipment. Director Freshley asked what exactly was meant by "harmonics". Ms. Ford stated that harmonics is referring to the electrical system. Mr. Cafferty stated that alternatives for the harmonic filter was analyzed by a consultant. Directly Freshley asked how much extra the harmonic filter will cost. Ms. Ford stated that the harmonic filter will cost approximately \$22,000.

Director Adjarian asked if there are noise panels in the facility. Mr. Cafferty explained that the facility was originally designed with the noise panels when it was built.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Adjarian to approve the new turbo blower.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Caltrans Construction Contract Change Order No.3

Mr. Harnisch stated that we are currently in phase three of the project. He further stated that back in December, Caltrans, their contractor, and the mall site developer added a street behind Trader Joe's leading from Avenida De Carlotta to Calle De La Louisa. Mr. Harnisch stated the street added an ADA ramp, which in turn conflicted with two of ETWD's manholes. He further stated the conflict results in a change order; and the District will be reimbursed by Caltrans for the cost of the work.

Director Adjarian asked for the specific location on the map. Mr. Cafferty pointed to the map to show where the construction is located.

Director Havens asked for clarification of the pink line in figure two of the reference materials. Mr. Harnisch stated that the pink line is the curb face.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Freshley to approve the Caltrans Construction Contract Change Order No.3.

Roll Call Vote:

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

WEROC Multijurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan and America's Water Infrastructure Act
of 2018 Components Risk/Resiliency Assessments and Emergency Response Plans
Project

Ms. Seitz provided a summary of the Act. Ms. Seitz stated that the District has partnered with WEROC to update the regional hazard mitigation plan every five years and the existing plan which was last adopted in 2019 expires in March 2025. Ms. Seitz stated that AWIA requires drinking water systems serving more than thirty-three hundred people to develop or update their risk and resilience assessments every five years. She further stated the District's population has increased since the last plan update, making the next due dates December 31, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

Director Freshley asked when more people were added to the District's population. Mr. Cafferty stated that the population increase is due to census updates.

Ms. Seitz stated that WEROC took on the task of creating the shared services project which combines the plan into a single contract and ultimately saves cost for the District. Ms. Seitz stated the District's estimated total cost is \$58,750. Director Havens asked if the total cost would cover the District for five years for all three programs. Ms. Seitz stated that the last time these plans were done, the total cost amount did not exceed the estimate. Director Havens asked if the payment would be done at once or on three occasions. Ms. Seitz stated that, since they are all due at separate times, it would be three payments.

Director Adjarian, asked if the ERP amounts located on page two of the reference materials was referring to the District's ERP. Ms. Seitz stated that was correct.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Adjarian made a Motion, seconded by President Monin to approve the WEROC Multijurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan and America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 Components Risk/Resiliency Assessments and Emergency Response Plans Project.

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 stated the Operations Report is in the package and asked if anyone had questions. Director Havens asked for clarification on what was meant by "trucked by others" on page 157. Mr. Cafferty stated that maintenance or testing has to be done periodically and that, during this period, the District sludge tanker was out of service for inspection and repairs, during which time an outside contractor was used to haul solids to SOCWA. President Monin asked if we are able to rent a tanker for this purpose. Mr. Hopkins stated that this option has been considered, but most of the tanks are located in South or North Dakota, and cost to transport is very expensive.

Director Freshley expressed disappointment in the battery storage systems and asked if there was a change in the provider. Mr. Cafferty stated that the last three months have not been great, however the previous five months were very efficient and has saved the District approximately \$23,000. Mr. Cafferty further stated that there was a change in the provider due to a company buy out, and there have been overall savings. Mr. Cafferty also stated that system productivity is being closely monitored and

the District is in constant communication with the storage system company.

President Monin stated that battery systems seem to be the future of energy efficiency and that he hopes the software system will learn and adapt. Director Havens agreed with President Monin.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

New Warehouse

Mr. Harnisch stated that the contractor is wrapping up the Warehouse project. He further stated the internal components such as roll up doors, signage, storage racks, and fire extinguisher have just been completed. Mr. Harnisch added the District is continuing coordination with AQMD and MET. Mr. Cafferty stated that the appropriate security system will need to be installed at the Warehouse and more information will be brought to the Board next month.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that a RFP for the design of the Aliso Creek Lift-Station Rehabilitation will be reviewed in a few weeks. Director Freshley commended staff on the work done on the lift-station.

Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Mr. Harnisch stated that the pre-construction meeting with Kingmen Construction, Inc. will be occurring within the next month.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance

Ms. Ford stated that District staff is currently conducting the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions field investigations. She explained that a notice was placed at the homes of affected customers. Ms. Ford stated Staff from Operations, Customer Service Field, and Engineering is doing a great job and has found no lead thus far.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford stated that the basis of design report for Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 has been finalized. Ms. Ford further stated the 60% final design will be worked on next. Ms. Ford, added that a polymer pilot is underway.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford stated that DDW approved the tracer study, and the District submitted the final report recommending operation with a lower concentration times contact time immediately after tracer study approval. Ms. Ford noted a response from DDW is anticipated in June or July.

Asset Management Program

Ms. Ford stated that the WRP results for the asset management program have been presented and focus has been shifted to CMMS. Ms. Ford further stated that software recommendations would be presented soon. Director Freshley asked what CMMS entails and what the cost is. Ms. Ford explained that CMMS tracks inventory of assets by condition scores and ideally CMMS and asset management systems are integrated so that updates occur as work is being completed. Ms. Ford further stated that the cost will vary and we are still in the process of evaluating operating systems.

WRP Main Electrical Power Breaker

Ms. Ford stated the second shut down for the ATS installation is scheduled for the end of June, assuming the pre-install meeting at the end of May goes well.

System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study

Ms. Ford stated that we are still waiting for data request from SCE. Director Freshley asked if any walls had to be moved for this project. Ms. Ford stated that initial recommendations did not include walls to be taken down.

R-6 Reservoir and Main Office Security System

Ms. Ford stated cameras have been installed at the Main Office and R-6 chemical storage area. The radar system perimeter camera should be installed by the end of the month.

Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

There were no comments.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

There were no comments.

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 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


MARISOL MELENDEZ
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