

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2024

At approximately 7:56 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 (Zoom), 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 (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Cherry Pump and Motor Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that the pumps and motors at the Cherry Pump Station were originally installed in the 1970's and have reached the end of their useful life. She stated that as staff explored replacement options, they refined the flow ratings finding them to be lower than currently rated and in order to maintain system flexibility, the updated specifications were tested with the hydraulic model to ensure compatibility. Ms. Ford noted that the facility will operate more efficiently with the upgrade resulting in potential energy savings. Staff recommends purchasing the equipment from Brax Company who provided a quote that is within budget.

President Monin asked how useful life is determined. Ms. Ford explained that there is usually a placeholder within the District's asset management program and is typically about 20 years for this type of equipment. She added that staff effectively extends the useful life of equipment through rehabilitation and rebuilding resulting in longer operational periods.

Mr. Cafferty noted that during the asset management plan process an expected useful life is established but condition assessments are also considered.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Director Adjarian to approve the Cherry Pump and Motor Replacement.

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. Hopkins noted that the lead and copper rule will not be on next month's operations report since the project is complete.

Director Havens previously requested an update on fire suppression measures for the battery storage facility. Mr. Hopkins explained that staff contacted STEM, who recommended reaching out to OCFA for fire emergencies. They indicated that a combination a foam and water would be used to extinguish potential fires.

Ms. Moore inquired whether the median on Moulton across from Gate 12 utilized recycled water. Mr. Cafferty said he would verify this information for confirmation.

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is still in the process of analyzing the battery system reports and will report back upon completion.

Director Havens noted the high chlorine residual number for Reservoir 1 on page 95. Mr. Hopkins explained the R1 system was taken offline due to operational issues which was mitigated by dosing the tank.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Ms. Ford stated the contractor is ahead of schedule and the remaining work involves the VFD installation. She added that Kingmen is on track to complete the project by early November.

New Warehouse

Ms. Ford reported that the electrical equipment was installed and staff is working with SCE to energize the new service connection, which is the final component needed for completion. She also mentioned that staff is continuing to coordinate with AQMD and MWD to finalize the remaining construction.

Director Freshley inquired about the outdoor electrical equipment enclosure in Figure 3. Ms. Ford stated she would research and follow up.

Secondary Clarifier No. 3 Drive Replacement

Ms. Ford stated that Secondary Clarifier No. 3 catastrophically failed at the end of September and staff immediately initiated emergency repairs. She explained that a purchase order of approximately \$50,000.00 has been placed for a replacement mechanism, which is expected to take about 12 weeks to arrive and a contractor for the installation is currently being sought.

Mr. Cafferty added that an action item will be brought to the Board for both the equipment and its installation.

Main Office Warehouse Drainage Improvement Project

Ms. Ford stated that the leak in the main office warehouse highlighted a drainage issue, as the building lacks proper drainage away from the structure. She explained that staff is considering a trench drain solution, with a cost estimate of approximately \$94,000.00 and once the final design is complete, the item will be presented to the Board for approval.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance

Ms. Ford stated that staff has completed all field surveys and submitted a letter to DDW documenting the District's results, which has been approved resulting in the District achieving the non-lead designation. She noted that a statement regarding this designation is now available on the District's website for public access and will also be included in the consumer confidence report.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the District will continue to perform the regular water quality sampling per previous state requirements.

Asset Management Program

Ms. Ford stated that staff is working to integrate the results from the Pump Stations and WRP asset management into CMMS, which is not currently set up for this type of integration. She added that staff participated in interviews with vendors specialized in the required integration and has indicated their preferences. Ms. Ford stated staff is evaluating costs for the top vendors and plans to present a decision to the Board in the coming months.

Ms. Ford explained that the advantage of having an asset management program is that the program will track the condition scoring on an automated basis and will integrate with the work order management system so that staff can appropriately forecast assets and risk management.

System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study

Ms. Ford reported that a workshop was conducted at the end of September to review the results of the arc flash and coordination study. She added that Hazen identified several recommendations addressing issues with miscoordination, inadequate short circuit ratings, and improperly sized conductors. Ms. Ford stated that

recommendations were discussed and draft reports are being reviewed to form an implementation plan, and once that is complete arc flash labels can be installed.

Director Freshley inquired about any locations lacking adequate short circuit capability. Ms. Ford explained that the District now has a calculated understanding of what the ratings should be and many sites have been expanded and improved. Director Freshley also asked whether SCE coordinates with the District during upgrades to their distribution system regarding potential changes to the District's default level ratings. Ms. Ford stated she would investigate this further but assured that staff conducted extensive coordination with SCE for the study.

Caltrans I-5 Widening Utility Relocations

Ms. Ford reported that this project is now complete.

Director Havens mentioned the grade level difference at the manhole location. Ms. Ford stated she would check with the contractor to ensure that there are no safety concerns.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford stated staff has received 90% design deliverable and is currently reviewing it.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff will be receiving 60% deliverable in the next couple of days which will be used to write a sub-application for FEMA grant funding.

Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford provided a follow up report regarding the InPipe Energy solution which was discussed several months ago. She stated the project involved installing a turbine at the main pressure reducing station costing approximately \$160,000.00 for installation even after grant rebates. Ms. Ford further stated that this discussion had been tabled at the time but the vendor for the equipment recently reached out to inform staff that there may be an additional 75% funding opportunity through a new program they were awarded. If pursued, the payback would be extremely quick and the capital costs would be potentially as low as \$11,000.00. Ms. Ford stated staff has signed a support letter and will consider pursuing the opportunity if approved.

Director Freshley asked if the contract with Terra Verde has begun yet. Mr. Cafferty confirmed that the contract has not started yet but as soon as the schedule is available staff will present that information to the Board.

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 9:02 a.m.

Regular Session

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today to discuss the item on the Closed Session Agenda.

Closed Session

At approximately 9:03 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session to discuss the item on the Closed Session Agenda. Also, at this time everyone left the meeting except the Board members, General Counsel, and the General Manager.

Open Session Report

At approximately 9:14 a.m. the Board returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss the item on today's Closed Session agenda. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 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