

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 23, 2024

At approximately 7:37 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, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Use Efficiency Analyst (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, 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

Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project – CEQA Compliance

Ms. Ford stated Tetra Tech is currently providing final design services, and the District needs to start on the CEQA compliance component. She noted that staff has ample time to work on this project as the District is pursuing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. Ms. Ford stated that staff plans to bid out the project documents by mid-2026. Ms. Ford reported that a RFP was released for the CEQA compliance component which resulted in six consultants in attendance for the pre-proposal meeting and five proposal submissions. Staff recommended Rincon due to their experience with FEMA funding, strong environmental expertise, and positive references from agencies who have previously contracted them.

Director Adjarian asked how many years of experience the lead CEQA analyst, Ethan Knox has. Mr. Cafferty stated that Mr. Knox has 3 years of experience with various projects during that time as outlined in the appendix of the proposal.

Director Freshley asked for clarification on the cost savings mentioned in the proposal. Ms. Ford explained that the Notice of Exemption was Rincon's unique idea, noting they were the only firm to recognize this opportunity. She acknowledged the possibility of obtaining a categorical Notice of Exemption was not certain but will be determined.

Director Adjarian asked if Rincon is offering NEPA compliance services. Ms. Ford stated that Rincon has offered an optional task for additional FEMA assistance if necessary but FEMA staff will conduct any necessary NEPA compliance; the District's responsibility is that related to CEQA.

Director Freshley inquired about FEMA's involvement in the design philosophy of this project. Ms. Ford clarified that FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds 75% of project costs if an applying agency can demonstrate that the project will help prevent future emergencies. She explained that when a disaster is declared, money is set aside to fund projects aimed to prevent future hazards. Ms. Ford stated the District is applying for FEMA funding, and, in order to do so, the District must ensure CEQA compliance but the design process doesn't change because of FEMA pursuance.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Adjarian made a Motion, seconded by President Monin to approve the Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project – CEQA Compliance.

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 valve count slightly decreased due to staff's effort on the lead and copper surveys.

Vice President Gaskins inquired about the status of the lead and copper compliance project. Mr. Hopkins stated that no lead was found. Mr. Cafferty added that Hazen will compile a detailed report for DDW.

Director Havens noticed that the rising nitrite levels, which are expected during the summer, included a notably high reading at R-1 on page 106. Mr. Cafferty explained that the conversion from irrigation to recycled water has affected these levels but ensured close monitoring of the area.

Director Freshley inquired about the WRP battery storage system report. Mr. Hopkins explained that the system was temporarily out of service because the battery system and controller needed to be replaced, which were affected by an overheating issue. He stated that this was the reason for the gap in the report.

Mr. Cafferty added that a third-party review of the system that will provide further understanding will be completed and staff will report back afterwards.

Director Havens asked if batteries require a special fire suppressant. Mr. Hopkins stated he would look into that and follow up.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Ms. Ford stated the project is going well and on track to be completed by year end. She added that the VFD arrived; however, the AC unit was installed on the wrong side, and the vendor is working to correct the problem. Ms. Ford further stated that the previously mentioned change order was finalized and total costs were slightly over \$10,000.00 for the additional demolition work items. Ms. Ford stated that another change order is also in progress to address pipe identification and valve tagging.

New Warehouse

Ms. Ford reported that the new Warehouse project is progressing and on track to be completed by the end of next month. She further stated that the exterior components such as concrete ramps and landing pads will be done next, followed by the final asphalt placement. Ms. Ford reported that the electrical equipment has been received. Southern California Edison (SCE) will conduct an inspection after installation, and the new meters will be energized 30 days later.

Director Freshley expressed concern over earthquake activity and asked if the storage racks will be anchored to the wall. Ms. Ford stated the shelves are secured to the ground but will research further requirements.

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Compliance

Ms. Ford stated that nearly all the field surveys were completed. She added that after the remaining 13 surveys are complete, Hazen will do a final QC and results will be submitted to DDW with hopes to achieve the non-lead designation next month.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that the District is on track to achieve 60% design completion in mid-October.

Ocean Outfall Pump Station (OOPS) Motor Control Center (MCC) and Valve Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford stated that this is a capitally funded project due to aging MCC and transfer switch for which parts are obsolete and not arc flash rated. She added that the lead time is 280 days and staff would like to place the order this month for the contractor to install the equipment around May 2025 upon its arrival.

Director Adjarian inquired about the delayed delivery times. Ms. Ford stated long lead times are the global norm lately. Mr. Cafferty added that neighboring agencies are also experiencing similar lengthy delivery times.

Director Freshley noted the high estimate for the MCC and ATS installation cost. Ms. Ford stated that she will get more details on estimate costs upon hiring the contractor for the installation.

WRP Generator Radiator Replacement

Ms. Ford stated the work is now complete and is back in service as planned.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford stated Carollo is moving towards 90% design and anticipates placing the Project to bid in the first quarter of next year. She further stated that the result of the polymer pilot did not achieve reasonable cost savings so a new polymer addition system upstream of the DAF units will not be included in the project.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford stated comments came back from DDW and a response was submitted with detailed explanations to their questions. She further stated the timeline for implementation depends entirely on DDW.

Asset Management Program

Ms. Ford stated four vendors were short listed and scripted demonstrations for the Computerized Maintenance Management System are planned for next month. She added that integration with asset management plan is important to ensure a right fit for the District.

New Turbo Blower

Ms. Ford stated staff placed the purchase orders for the new turbo blower in July and the harmonic filter in September.

Director Freshley asked why there is a need for a harmonic filter. Ms. Ford explained that the existing turbo blower has a passive harmonic filter and, after considering other options, staff will be taking the same approach with the new turbo blower after concluding that it was necessary for the protection of the equipment.

Ms. Ford stated that a mechanical and electrical installation of the turbo blower will need to be contracted. She further stated that staff plans to hire Don Peterson for the mechanical portion because he is very familiar with the project as he was the contractor who was hired to install the initial turbo blower.

Additional Tertiary Filter Disks

Ms. Ford stated the order for the additional tertiary filter disks was placed in July with pending delivery by the end of the year and will be installed during off peak season.

Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford stated that staff applied for the Department of Energy's Industrial Assessment Center Program related to the WAC which could result in a grant of over \$300,000.00. She further stated that this grant is the result of one of the process modifications staff plans to make as part of the Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project to change the operation of the WAC so that only one half of the process is used at a time. Bifurcating the WAC will require half the airflow resulting in energy efficiency savings. Ms. Ford added that staff expects a response in December of whether or not funding was approved.

Mr. Cafferty added that Terra Verde will be performing a more detailed analysis of solar options at the WRP and potential battery projects at other District facilities.

Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

Ms. Ford stated that she is the Vice President of the Orange County chapter of WateReuse and was the co-chair of their conference last week. She added that over 800 attendees participated, including staff from local districts, and encouraged anyone interested to attend future events.

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 8:39 a.m.

Regular Session

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is no need for a Closed Session today. As such the Regular Session continued.

Adjournment

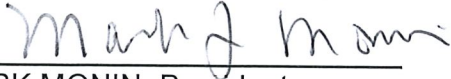
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

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