

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 24, 2025

At approximately 8:20 a.m. Vice President Freshley called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Committee Members MARK MONIN, MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and WYATT McCLEAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Use Efficiency Analyst (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call:

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

## Engineering Action Items

### Warehouse Asphalt Improvements Project

Mr. Cafferty stated the remaining paving work was deferred until after MWD's completion at the repair sites on the Allen McColloch pipeline. Additionally, AQMD is nearing the completion of its air monitoring facility relocation. The site is divided into four areas, two of which MWD has agreed to cost-share for repairs. Bids for these repairs were opened, and the figures were sent to MWD, which were within the expected cost amounts.

Vice President Freshley inquired about AQMD's work at the site. Mr. Cafferty explained that AQMD is installing an equipment enclosure with concrete foundations and power conduits, with staff coordinating efforts to avoid conflicts. AQMD is facing delays due to the City of Mission Viejo's permitting process. Mr. Cafferty stated the decision to delay paving was made to avoid damaging the new asphalt, as there will be heavy equipment from construction. Once the project is approved, a notice of award will be issued to the contractor, who will then provide the necessary contract and insurance documents.

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by President Gaskins to authorize the District's General Manager to enter into a contract with Pave West in the amount of \$89,180 for the construction of the Warehouse Asphalt Improvements Project and to fund the project costs from the District's Capital Reserves as recommended by staff in accordance with the District's adopted Capital Reserve Policy.

Roll Call:

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

Engineering Information Items

El Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins stated he has been working with department supervisors to establish weekly goals, with progress being tracked and reported regularly. Director Havens inquired about the use of potable water relative to the recycled water flow graph on page 159. Mr. Cafferty explained that significant efforts are being made to avoid introducing potable water into the recycled water system. He explained that, due to warm weather at the start of the year and with the installation of new tertiary filters (where only one filter vessel was online), a spike in demand occurred, necessitating the use of potable water. Mr. Cafferty emphasized that this event was an anomaly, and the system is designed to handle such situations, though it will only be used occasionally. Director Monin inquired about any future plans to reduce the water discharge into the ocean. Mr. Cafferty explained that expanding the recycled water system or implementing a potable water use facility are potential options but both would be costly. Staff continues to evaluate available options while considering the associated timelines.

Vice President Freshley inquired about the battery report. Mr. Cafferty explained that the system has generated approximately \$17,000 in savings during the first five months of the year. He noted that Terra Verde reviewed the report and found STEM's data to be relatively close. Terra Verde identified potential opportunities to enhance savings, particularly by focusing on reducing the commodity cost of power rather than shaving demand costs.

## El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

### Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Mr. Cafferty reported that a small pressure transmitter was damaged, and replacing it has been challenging. Once the new part arrives, the final startup test will be conducted, and the project will be complete.

### New Warehouse

Mr. Cafferty reported that the electrical issues have been resolved, and the contractor is now addressing minor punch list items. The final security and monitoring installation are expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Once AQMD finishes their portion, the final paving will be completed.

### Secondary Clarifier No. 3 Drive Replacement

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is waiting for the delivery of the drive and will coordinate with the contractor to install the equipment once it arrives.

### Main office Warehouse Drainage Improvement Project

Staff is working with the contractor to produce a schedule.

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

Mr. Cafferty reported that the design is nearly complete. Mr. Granito has reviewed the construction documents, and Ms. Ford will proceed with placing the project out to bid in the coming months.

### Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is about to publish the draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration documents for public review. After public review, staff will bring the document for the Board's review and approval of the project. Mr. Cafferty also stated that staff received one response to the tribal consultation letters and staff is working with the tribe to address their concerns.



Director havens asked if there are any concerns surrounding the FEMA grant application given the new administration. Mr. Cafferty stated that an application hasn't been submitted since the funding becomes available after a declared disaster, which the consultant is looking out for.

#### Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is currently waiting for DDW to respond to its letter.

#### New Turbo Blower

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is coordinating with the contractor to schedule the installation.

#### Additional Tertiary Filter Disks

Mr. Cafferty reported that a site visit is scheduled with Aqua-Aerobics early next month to complete the start up process.

#### Energy Efficiency Analysis

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff was notified of a successful application for the Industrial Assessment Center Grant Program and is now waiting for the agreement. He also mentioned that another funding opportunity may become available, and staff will evaluate whether to proceed with it.

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

There were no comments.

#### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Vice President Freshley reported on the topics covered at the CASA conference, which included AI, PFAS liability issues, and flushable legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:14 a.m.

Regular Session

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is no need for closed session today.


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:

  
MIKE GASKINS, 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