

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2025

At approximately 8:12 a.m. Director 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, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager, RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer, VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Use Efficiency Analyst (Zoom), Garth Botha, PUMP STATIONS FOREMAN, CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), JANET FORDUNSKI, City of Laguna Woods (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call:

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

Main Office Warehouse Improvements Project

Mr. Cafferty explained that the proposed solution to prevent future damage involves a trench drain design to modify the grade and ensure proper water drainage, along with additional building modifications. Staff received three bids from reputable contractors and is recommending GCI Construction, Inc. for the project. Mr. Cafferty noted that the design and cost estimate provided by Richard Brady and Associates, Inc was significantly lower than the bids received due to outdated figures and rising construction costs. However, the project is necessary and the final price reflects the contractor's actual costs.

Director Havens inquired about what is included in the project cost. Mr. Cafferty explained that the costs covers the installation of a trench drain with a grate to allow water to flow into it, which will then be conveyed to the pump station. Mr. Harnisch added that the pump station accounts for approximately 50% of the total project cost.

Vice President Freshley asked if the pump station will be connected to the onsite generator. Mr. Cafferty clarified that the pump will be powered by the District's electrical panel, which is tied into the generator.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to authorize the District's General Manager to enter into a contract with GCI Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$225,000 for the construction of the Main Office Warehouse Improvements Project. Staff further recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to fund the project costs from the District's Capital Reserves 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

New Turbo Blower Installation Project

Mr. Cafferty reported that the turbo blower was purchased some time ago due to its long lead time, and staff was waiting to get closer to the receipt of the equipment before requesting approval for its installation. Staff is recommending Don Peterson Contracting, Inc. for the mechanical installation as they previously installed a turbo blower for a past District project, making them the most efficient choice. Staff is further recommending Halcyon Electric Inc, for the electrical installation. The harmonic filter has arrived and the turbo blower is expected by the end of the month. The project is slightly under cost. Vice President Freshley inquired about the type of motor driving the blower to require a harmonic filter. Mr. Cafferty stated he will gather more information from staff and follow up.

Director Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: President Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to authorize the District's General Manager to 1) enter into a contract with Don Peterson Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$150,000 for the mechanical installation of the new Turbo Blower at the Water Recycling Plant and 2) enter into a contract with Halcyon Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$46,448.81 for the electrical portion of the blower installation and to authorize the General Manager to fund the project costs from the District's Capital Reserves 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

Wildfire Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Cafferty provided a presentation on the District's facilities and emergency preparedness posture with specific emphasis on the potential wildfire incidents. The presentation topics included sources of supply, interconnections, storage, back up power, fire hydrant maintenance program, fire hardening program, and individual pressure zone reliability.

EI Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins mentioned that he will be reviewing certain aspects of the operations report with staff. Mr. Cafferty added that operations staff has been focused on other areas of importance, but will remind staff the importance of fire hydrant maintenance.

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff continues to explore opportunities and potential partnerships to maximize the beneficial use of recycled water.

EI Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Grit Chamber Rehabilitation

Mr. Cafferty reported that the project is nearly complete with the exception of one piece of equipment that needs repair. Final testing and completion are expected by month end.

New Warehouse

Mr. Cafferty reported that power has now been established at the new warehouse, with punch list items expected to be completed by the end of the month. Final installations for security and fire monitoring are underway. Coordination is ongoing with AQMD, which is finalizing permitting with the City of Mission Viejo. The final paving is out to bid and will be brought to the February Engineering Committee meeting. Mr. Cafferty also mentioned that MET is sharing the cost for the final paving.

Secondary Clarifier No. 3 Drive Replacement

Mr. Cafferty stated that the equipment has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in February 2025.

Asset Management Program

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff continues to review options for the CMMS. Staff will be attending a presentation from the vendor currently providing existing services.

System Wide Arc Flash and Coordination Study

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff continues to work on and implement the project. He also mentioned that he added language to provide details on the actions being taken in response to the study.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff is continuing with the design and CEQA requirements and remains hopeful for potential funding opportunities. He also noted that staff received one response to the tribal consultation and will ensure proper communication to address any concerns.

Valve Truck

Mr. Cafferty reported that the new valve truck has arrived and is already in use.

Energy Efficiency Analysis

Mr. Cafferty reported that the District received \$300,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. The funds will be allocated towards the Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project.

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 9:31 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 9:31 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