

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 19, 2025

At approximately 8:17 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, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (8:36 a.m.), 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

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director McClean 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

Resolution No. 25-5-1 Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MM&RP) for the Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvements Project

Ms. Ford reported that the draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) was released for public review, and no comments were received. This resolution adopts the IS-MND, which includes standard mitigation measures used in other District projects. Notable measures include protections for nesting birds and tribal monitoring during construction to safeguard cultural resources.

Mr. Cafferty noted that although the project is being adopted now, construction will not begin immediately. Ms. Ford explained that the current Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding was made available due to recent fires, but future funding hasn't been getting approved making this potentially one of the last available grant opportunities through HMGP. Mr. Cafferty stated the project is included in the 10-year budget without assuming grant funding. Ms. Ford added that the Notice of Award is expected in 2028.

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to adopt Resolution No. 25-5-1 which approves the Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvements Project and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and authorizes the General Manager or designee to file a Notice of Determination of same for the Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvements Project.

Roll Call:

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

Distribution System Asset Management Plan

Ms. Ford reported that the next phase of the Asset Management Program is the water distribution system. A desktop survey using GIS data will be used to assess soil conditions and to identify priority areas for planning pipeline replacements. This does not include underground pipe condition assessments or leak detections surveys. A likely outcome of the study will include future targeted pipe condition assessments in critical areas, as needed, to guide prioritization for replacement.

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 amend its existing contract with Hazen and Sawyer in the amount of \$84,630 to develop the Water Distribution System Asset Management Plan and to authorize the General Manager 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

Director Havens inquired about the timing of fire hydrant exercising and whether it typically occurs at the end of the year. Mr. Hopkins explained that the schedule depends on the type of hydrant- arterial or distribution. Mr. Cafferty added that hydrant and valve maintenance is an ongoing program, not tied to a specific time of year. Staff works toward weekly production goals to accomplish annual objectives.

Director Freshley asked about the Battery Storage System report, noting it set peak demand on March 26th. Mr. Cafferty clarified the battery still provided net savings beyond the District's monthly costs. He noted that staff will follow up with STEM for clarification on why the system did not mitigate the demand event.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

New Turbo Blower

Ms. Ford reported that the turbo blower installation is nearly complete, with final coating currently underway. System startup is scheduled for next month.

Secondary Clarifier No. 3 and No. 4 Drive Replacement Project

Ms. Ford stated that the contractor is scheduled to install the platform for Secondary Clarifier No. 3 by the end the month. Secondary Clarifier No. 4 is expected to arrive and be installed next month.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff is preparing to recommend the award of a construction management and inspection contract at the next meeting in conjunction with the construction contract. Ms. Ford added that the District had been notified of a DOE grant award based on an application submitted late last year. However, it is uncertain whether the funding remains available due to changes in the new

administration's priorities. Accepting the grant involves certain costs to the District. Bid documents were revised to include these costs as optional bid items, which may or may not be exercised depending on the grant status. A decision on moving forward without the grant will be made in the coming months.

New Warehouse and Asphalt Improvements Projects

Mr. Harnisch reported that AQMD has completed installation of their equipment container, including the concrete pad and electrical duct bank, and is now offsite.

Paving is scheduled to begin in the second week of June and is expected to be completed within one week. Staff is coordinating with the contractor and the surrounding HOA to communicate potential impacts such as dust and noise.

Main Office Warehouse Drainage Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that the project is currently in the submittal phase with the contractor. The longest lead time item remains the manufacturing of the pump station. Construction is expected to begin in mid-June.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Stabilization Project

Ms. Ford reported that the geotechnical study has been completed. Staff will meet with the consultant this month to begin developing design documents based on the findings. There is no updated cost estimate at this time, but the preliminary estimate is approximately \$500,000, which would be shared among the District's partner agencies.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff is preparing a presentation for upcoming Board meetings with Golden Rain Foundation and United.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford reported that design drawings are underway for the installation of required free chlorine analyzers. Staff is also reviewing the ammonia analyzer to ensure it remains below the operational set point that DDW has imposed. Installation will proceed following the completion of the design documents.

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

Ms. Ford stated that staff is waiting for the arrival of the ATS to finalize the design documents, which will then be issued for contractor bidding.

Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement Project

Ms. Ford reported that the design documents are complete and currently under review by SCE, as the project involves changes to the utility meter that require their approval.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that the design documents are complete and have been submitted to SCE for review. This project also includes changes to the utility meter that require SCE approval.

Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford reported that staff is collaborating with InPipe Energy on a hydro turbine project, with SCE currently reviewing a potential interconnection agreement.

Additionally, the District is working with Terra Verde on two battery storage projects and is developing an RFP that may include solar components. Mr. Cafferty added that the battery projects are viable due to funding opportunities from two sources. He noted that SCE has approved and obligated funding for the battery project at the Ocean Outfall Pump Station. Staff also revised the application for the proposed battery project at the

P-1 Pump Station and anticipates a similar funding obligation.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Director Havens shared insights from the recent ACWA Conference, including information on a robotic track mower for steep slopes, the use of a confined space trailer, and the risk control manual from MNWD.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Regular Session

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is no need for a closed session today but noted that on Thursday, he will provide an update on Patz v. City of San Diego (a Prop. 218 class action) which is pending before the California Court of Appeal.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 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