

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 23, 2025

At approximately 7:51 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), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom), RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (7:53 a.m.), 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

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford explained that this project is critical because secondary clarifiers are central to the treatment process. One of the clarifiers, which is over 60 years old, must be upgraded to meet current seismic code. The project also includes improvements to the Headworks. The current Headworks configuration requires staff to use the bypass channel daily, resulting in the lack of a true bypass. Ms. Ford noted that the project will require a contractor, engineering services during construction, third-party construction management including inspection, and software programming services. She added that the District will no longer pursue grant funding from the Department of Energy due to uncertainty surrounding the award and the costs required to meet compliance requirements.

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to authorize the District's General Manager to (1) enter into a contract with J.R. Filanc Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$10,424,200.00 for construction of the Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project, (2) enter into a contract with Butier Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$943,904.00 for construction management and inspection services, (3) amend its existing contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$546,328.00 for engineering services during construction, and (4) enter into a contract with ROI Engineering LLC in the amount of \$103,433 for programming services 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

Vice President Freshley inquired about the WRP battery storage system report and noted that the demand savings did well. Mr. Cafferty explained that the most recent report indicated the system had reached its maximum contractual savings after which the further savings are shared with the system investors. He added that the system is designed and operated to shave peak demand and reduce demand charges. Staff is currently seeking clarification from STEM regarding the chart and its representation.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

New Turbo Blower

Ms. Ford reported that the third blower has been installed and startup will begin today.

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

Ms. Ford reported that Secondary Clarifier No. 3 has been fully rehabilitated and is in service. Secondary Clarifier No. 4 is undergoing proactive repairs, and staff are currently waiting on parts to complete the installation next month, which are scheduled to be complete before the Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation project begins.

New Warehouse and Asphalt Improvements Projects

Mr. Harnisch reported that paving is nearly complete, with gate loop installation scheduled. Once completed, District equipment can be moved into the Warehouse.

AQMD will return in late June to complete their installation.

Main Office Warehouse Drainage Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that staff continues to work with the contractor on the submittal phase. He noted that construction was delayed due to efforts to identify cost-saving opportunities, which did not materialize. Construction is now scheduled to begin in early July.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Stabilization Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff reviewed the geotechnical results with the project designer. She noted that Figure 7 describes the proposed design, which includes a brow ditch to collect and manage drainage in order to prevent future erosion. The 75% design submittal, along with a cost estimate, is expected later this week.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvements Project

Ms. Ford reported that the designer is progressing toward the 90% design milestone. Staff is preparing presentation materials for the Golden Rain Foundation and the United Board. She also provided an update on the FEMA HMGP funding, noting that the funds may be directed toward fire related events, and the revised direction remains uncertain. Ms. Ford added that the project's full funding has been included in the ten-year plan without reliance on grant funding.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford reported that the design for installing new free chlorine analyzers is nearing completion, and staff plans to solicit quotes from contractors next month.

Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff has been working with SCE to secure approval for the design drawings. Staff plans to bring award recommendation to the Board next month.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that the award for an electrical installer will be presented to the Board approximately one month after the Westline Lift Station project.

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

Ms. Ford stated that this project is located at the WRP and does not involve the utility meter, so coordination with SCE is not required. Staff is waiting for the arrival of the final piece of equipment, scheduled for next week.

Asset Management

Ms. Ford stated that staff held a kickoff meeting with Hazen to discuss strategies for the linear asset management work. Two pieces of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) were collected, and potential testing is being considered. Staff also met with MNWD to review their CMMS and will evaluate whether to continue with the District's current vendor or select a new one.

Energy Efficiency Analysis

Ms. Ford reported that staff submitted an application with SCE to explore grid connection options for the turbine project at the MPR. Staff is waiting for the outcome of a funding opportunity recently awarded to InPipe Energy. Following the award, a timeline with specific deadlines will be established. Additionally, staff is working with Terra Verde on potential solar and battery energy efficiency projects at the WRP and P-1 Pump Station.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

President Gaskins responded to Ms. Moore's inquiry and stated that the recreation program OnX is used to generate maps featuring topographic lines and aerial photography.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Regular Session

Attorney Report

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 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