

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 22, 2025

At approximately 8:06 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, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (8:53 a.m.), SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, Laguna Woods City Council Member (Zoom), JANET FORDUNSKI, Member of the Public (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

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Temporary Easement Agreement

Ms. Ford reported that the project was put out to bid, with two attendees at the bid meeting. Only one of the two attendees were interested in serving as the prime, so the District re-advertised the invitation to bid publicly on PlanetBids. She noted that the design is complete and has received approvals from the Division of Safety of Dams and the City of Mission Viejo. Staff has been coordinating with MNWD and SMWD regarding the project schedule and cost. Based on the latest construction engineering estimate, total project cost will be approximately \$600,000, of which the District is responsible for 45%.

Director Havens inquired whether heavy equipment will be going over the parking lot during construction. Ms. Ford responded that a temporary ramp will be constructed, and the entrance to be used is gravel, not paved.

Vice President Freshley inquired about the earthwork involved. Ms. Ford explained that the slope will be extended about 5 feet along its entire length, with several hundred cubic yards of material to be compacted. The slope will be vegetated, and a brow ditch will intentionally route the drainage away from the slope.

Vice President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director Havens to authorize the Board President and the District's General Manager/Secretary to sign the Temporary Easement Agreement with Living Word Lutheran Church.

Roll Call:

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

Engineering Information Items

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvements Project Presentation

Mr. Cafferty explained the significance of the project, noting its proximity to the creek and adjacent trail. He emphasized importance of communicating the project's value to the community at upcoming committee and Board meetings.

Ms. Ford provided an update on the grant application process for the project, followed by the presentation that is planned for the upcoming Golden Rain Foundation and United Laguna Woods Mutual Committee and Board meetings. The Board offered feedback including communicating project costs and benefits and community outreach ideas.

EI Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Cafferty stated that the battery report closes out the contract year, reflecting both actual performance and the anticipated performance bonus to be paid to STEM. He added that staff has been discussing a potential contract extension with STEM.

EI Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Moulton/EI Toro Cathodic Protection Repair

Ms. Ford stated that the project is currently out to bid; bids are due early October, and a recommendation for award will be presented at the next meeting.

Battery and Solar Projects

Ms. Ford stated that 20 vendors submitted notices of interest and attended the mandatory site walk. She explained that staff will review proposals on a tighter timeline due to new rules under Public Law 119-21, which phases out the investment tax credit from the Inflation Reduction Act, a significant funding source for solar and battery projects. To maintain economic viability, construction must begin by year-end, with at least 5% of the total project cost spent to qualify as started. Staff will review the

proposals and determine whether to make a recommendation.

Main Office Warehouse Drainage Improvement Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that the contractor has finalized the installation of the precast manhole and the adjacent trench. A concrete V-ditch has also been added and extended over previously problematic areas. The pump vendor is scheduled to conduct start-up checks early next month to close out the project.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that staff is still reviewing submittals, with the projected project start estimated for November or December.

Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement

Mr. Harnisch reported that staff received Edison's approval last week. Notices have been distributed to the Laguna Woods Village community regarding construction near the walking trail adjacent to the lift station.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford stated that Baker has been notified of the Notice of Award, but the Notice to Proceed will be issued after completion of the Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement project.

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

Ms. Ford reported that staff developed the contract documents and will solicit bids from three contractors to identify the most cost-effective bid offer.

Secondary Clarifier No. 4 Drive Replacement Project

Ms. Ford stated that a change order for \$56,335 was issued for additional work on the corroded bridge adapter. Don Peterson has completed the necessary repairs, and staff will prime and coat the bridge before installation by Don Peterson.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford reported that District staff have received and installed three new free chlorine analyzers. Staff will work with Baker to install the electrical components at a cost of \$13,215 and will develop an Operations Plan as required by the Division of Drinking Water. Staff will develop the Operations Plan in house to reduce cost.

Asset Management

Ms. Ford stated that staff has been focusing on the distribution system and met with Hazen to establish likelihood and consequence of failure scoring based on multiple factors. She noted that much of the map shows medium (yellow) scoring, reflecting the similar installation years and material type (i.e., asbestos cement) of the District's distribution piping. Staff will review the data to determine proactive replacements. The consultant will provide cost estimates, and staff will decide if additional testing is needed to plan these replacements for the budget. Mr. Cafferty added that the sewer force mains will also be incorporated as the next step of Hazen's evaluation.

Mr. Harnisch left the meeting at approximately 9:31 a.m.

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

Mr. Cafferty stated that a Strategic Plan Workshop will be scheduled in early October.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that current legal services concerned much of those matters scheduled for action at Thursday's Regular Board Meeting such as the Waste Discharge Pretreatment and Source Control Program Ordinance No. 2025-3.

Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 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