

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2025

At approximately 8:14 a.m. Vice President Freshley called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Directors 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, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), ABEL ESTRADA, Billing & Customer Service Supervisor (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 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 Information Items

El Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins reported that staff is on track to complete the goals for the calendar year. Director Monin asked if other departments could use similar reports. Mr. Cafferty stated that staff may integrate the water sampling program and may explore additional opportunities. Vice President Freshley requested clarification on the WRP battery storage system report. Mr. Cafferty stated that staff will have a conversation with STEM and report back.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Moulton/El Toro Cathodic Protection Repair

Ms. Ford reported that staff rebid the project following a value engineering exercise. Four contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting, and bids will be opened in January, with a potential award also anticipated in January.

Solar and Battery Projects

Ms. Ford reported that staff has been working closely with TerraVerde and the preferred vendor for the battery projects. Originally, the goal was to award the contract by year-end to secure IRA funding. Contract negotiations and other uncertainties, such as SGIP battery approval (covering over 50% of the project) and FEOC compliance have delayed the timeline. Staff may recommend the battery project for award in March 2026, allowing enough time to confirm costs and funding. Staff anticipates approximately \$46,000 in first year utility charge reductions and an additional \$13,000 in demand response program savings. A 90-day extension was requested for the SGIP proof of project milestone deadlines, moving the deadlines to April. There are risks with the delay and these risks may lead staff to consider cancelling the projects to avoid losing the SGIP reservation fees. Staff will continue contract negotiations with the

preferred battery vendor and will resume solar negotiations, providing updates as the projects progress.

Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that the project is nearing completion, and staff is awaiting confirmation from SCE on when the permanent power source can be started.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff has performed potholing and will complete additional work near the Northline Lift Station in coordination with the Laguna Woods Golf Club. Mobilization is anticipated in January or February if materials arrive later.

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

Ms. Ford reported that staff has issued the Notice to Proceed, and Hydro Tech Electric is scheduled to mobilize next month.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that construction is underway, with major construction activities expected to begin in January.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff completed four presentations to the Golden Rain Foundation and United Mutual Committees and Boards. The presentations went well and United has requested to present the information at their Town Hall meeting.

Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff hired Baker to install the electrical power and pull signal wires. A site visit is scheduled for mid-January for DDW to inspect the installation. DDW is reviewing the operations plan, with comments expected in early January.

Asset Management

Ms. Ford reported that staff has started the force main work and will receive the dashboards for the linear distribution system asset management soon.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford stated that this project will begin after the completion of the Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement project.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Ms. Ford provided a follow up regarding double containment on generators. She stated that retrofitting is required only for tanks over a certain volume, and none of the District's generator tanks exceed that threshold. Currently, over 50% of the generators are double contained, and future replacements will also meet double containment requirements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:58 a.m.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is no need for a Closed Session today.

Regular Session

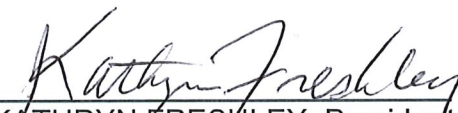
Adjournment

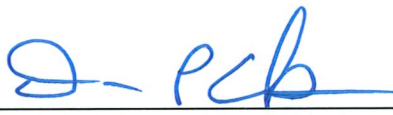
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


MARISOL MELENDEZ
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:


KATHRYN FRESHLEY, 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