

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
& OF THE  
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 2026

At approximately 8:10 a.m. 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, SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom), RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (8:12 a.m.), VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), ABEL ESTRADA, Billing & Customer Service Supervisor (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Engineering Action Items

Moulton Parkway / El Toro Road Cathodic Protection Repair

Ms. Ford reported that staff has been working on a solution for the cathodic protection system, which is known to have a discontinuity, and noted that the full extent of pipeline requiring protection is uncertain. She explained that the project was bid last year and received a single bid that was significantly higher than the engineer's estimate, despite strong interest at the pre-bid meeting. Staff subsequently performed value engineering and rebid the project through the PlanetBids portal, and three bids were submitted. Although the lowest bid was above the engineer's estimate, it was lower than the original bid. She noted that the highest bid, totaling \$2.3 million, was later determined to be a clerical error, and that two vendors submitted bids with errors, leaving only one valid bid. Ms. Ford stated that staff is recommending to reject the bids and rebid the project with a shortened bid window, limited to the three contractors who previously submitted bids.

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Monin to authorize the District's General Manager to (1) reject the bids submitted for the Moulton Parkway / El Toro Road Cathodic Protection Repair project and (2) rebid the project to a shortlist of qualified contractors.

Roll Call Vote:

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

## Engineering Information Items

### El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

#### Tertiary Disinfection Optimization Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff held a site walk with DDW last week to review the free chlorine disinfection proposal for the Tertiary Treatment Plant and to address comments on the Operations Plan submitted in October. She stated that staff anticipates DDW's approval of the free chlorine operation this month, which is expected to result in approximately \$60,000 in annual savings.

#### Westline Lift Station Main Switchboard Replacement

Mr. Harnisch reported that the contractor has completed the work and that the station is scheduled to return to permanent power. He also provided a breakdown of project costs.

#### Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that staff is still in the submittal phase, but the contractor will begin mobilization soon.

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

Mr. Harnisch reported that the automatic transfer switch is being replaced. He noted that a vendor performed reprogramming last week to ensure the plant remains operational. The system has been tested and is now back on permanent power.

#### R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that the December rainfall delayed the contractor, who spent time identifying suitable sources for fill dirt. The contractor located appropriate fill dirt and plans to resume the project, with landscaping scheduled to begin in February.

### Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff conducted the final presentation to United Mutual Townhall, which was well received. She stated that staff is drafting temporary construction agreements with the Golden Rain Foundation to formalize concessions. Staff also completed a final review of the sub-application with Cal OES, including environmental documents, and received positive feedback. Cal OES will determine within the next three months which projects will advance to the Federal phase. She added that the sub application for the P-3 generator project has been prioritized to potentially move forward to Federal review.

### Asset Management

Ms. Ford reported that staff has been working on the linear and force main asset management plans and expects to present the results for the linear assets soon. She noted that a productive workshop on sewer force mains was held last week to narrow down which to develop and include in the ten-year budget.

### Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford stated that the Notice to Proceed will be issued this month, with the project expected to be completed within the next three months.

### Solar and Battery Projects

Ms. Ford reported that staff is completing the final redline and are continuing discussions with vendors. Mr. Cafferty added that staff is waiting for confirmation that the proposed battery is acceptable under SCE's SGIP program and that it complies with foreign entities of concern requirements.

### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

President Freshley reported that she attended the CASA conference, where there were discussions on improving the public perception of the value of water.

Director Monin inquired about future plans for the District's demonstration garden and Ms. Seitz stated that staff will explore potential options.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:14 a.m.

### Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today to discuss Item No. 2 on today's Closed Session agenda.

### Closed Session

At approximately 9:14 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session. Also, at this time, everyone left the meeting except the Board members, Mr. Cafferty, and General Counsel.

### Regular Session

At approximately 9:46 a.m., the meeting returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

### Open Session Report

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss Item No. 2 of today's Closed Session agenda. No reportable action was taken.

### Adjournment

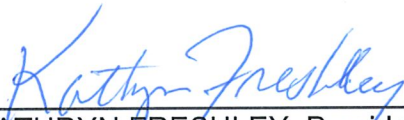
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

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