

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

February 23, 2026

At approximately 8:59 a.m. Director McClean 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, MIKE MIAZGA, Information Technology Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor (Zoom), RORY HARNISCH, Senior Engineer (9:30 a.m.), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), CAROL MOORE, City of Laguna Woods (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens 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 the project bid was issued to a short list of contractors and three valid bids were received, all of which were higher than the engineers estimate. She explained that the project location at Moulton Parkway and El Toro Road includes some of the most critical sections of pipeline in terms of consequence of failure and has been flagged by the District's Water Distribution Asset Management Plan.

Ms. Ford emphasized the importance of investing in the water distribution system to ensure reliable water conveyance. Staff is recommending the low bidder, Farwest who previously identified a discontinuity in the cathodic protection system approximately ten years ago. The District has worked with Farwest on other projects and has received positive references from other agencies.

Mr. Cafferty explained that the pipeline is metallic and subject to corrosion, and the purpose of the project is to prevent future failures. He added that there is likely a discontinuity in the current somewhere along the pipeline, possibly at a joint.

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Gaskins to authorize the District's General Manager to enter into a contract with Farwest Corrosion Control Company in the amount of \$367,000.00 for construction of the Moulton Parkway / El Toro Road Cathodic Protection Repair Project and that the Board 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 Vote:

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

Solar/Battery Projects Consulting Support for Contract Negotiation

Ms. Ford reported that the existing contract with TerraVerde covered services through RFP development but additional funding is needed to continue contract negotiations and support services. Staff plans to finalize contract negotiations by the end of March, aligned with and contingent upon approval from the SGIP confirmation of approval and non-FEOC verification. The amounts included in the report reflect both battery storage and solar components. Staff continues to evaluate solar proposals for the WRP through a Power Purchase Agreement. The battery component remains under review with respect to potential payback. Staff has developed preliminary estimates based on assumptions that may be offset through funding available under the IRA. Staff is monitoring the financial viability of the projects and will present a final financial analysis once it becomes available.

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by President Freshley to authorize the District's General Manager to amend its contract with TerraVerde Energy LLC in the amount of \$69,500.00 for contract negotiation services for the Solar/Battery Projects and that the Board 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 Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	no
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Resolution No. 26-2-1 Authorizing Designated Representatives to Apply for and Receive Federal and State Financial Assistance

Ms. Ford reported that this item ensures the District remains eligible to apply for and receive federal and state financial assistance. She noted that staff updated the resolution to address FEMA requirements and to identify the appropriate governing body representatives.

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Gaskins to adopt Resolution No. 26-2-1 authorizing designated representatives to apply for and receive federal and state financial assistance, including but not limited to funding through the FEMA HMGP and related disaster and mitigation programs.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Engineering Information Items

EI Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins reported that staff is off to a good start and that work is progressing well.

Distribution System Asset Management Plan Overview

Ms. Ford presented the findings from the Water Distribution System Asset Management Plan. She reviewed information regarding the District's pipeline age, pipe materials and estimated useful life. Ms. Ford also summarized the distribution system likelihood of failure scoring, which considers factors such as age, material, break history, and other conditions. The majority of the system's pipelines scored as medium risk or lower.

Ms. Ford also reviewed the consequence of failure scoring which is based on loss of service, damage, and restoration impacts. Based on the combined likelihood of failure and consequence failure scores, none of the District's pipelines were identified as high or extreme risk. Although 19 Capital Improvement projects were recommended, staff is not currently budgeting for those projects but plans to continue proactive monitoring and targeted pipeline replacements in certain areas.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that the project is currently in the submittal phase. The contractor has moved a trailer onto the site and plans to begin yard piping modifications in late February.

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

Mr. Harnisch reported that construction is complete, and he provided a summary of project expenditures.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that the project is nearing completion and will soon enter the 120-day maintenance phase. He noted that recent rain events delayed construction but the contractor is expected to return to the site on Wednesday to resume work.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff has completed project presentations to United Mutual and GRF and is now working on the temporary construction agreements. She added that staff has also completed the 90 percent design for the lift station.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that staff is working with SCE to evaluate whether installing underground utilities at the site is feasible and worthwhile.

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 10:00 a.m.

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 10:00 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