

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2026

At approximately 7:44 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 (Zoom), VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom), Rory Harnisch, Senior Engineer (7:48 a.m.), VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor (Zoom), 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 Director McClean 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 Information Items

El Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Hopkins reported that staff is working on the air vacs and blow off maintenance this month.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Battery and Solar Projects

Ms. Ford reported that, after further financial analysis, the battery project may not be financially viable due to associated risks and uncertainties. She stated that the consultant, Terra Verde, is working at-risk and has contacted 14 vendors for interest in entering into a Public Private Partnership (P3), under which a third party would assume project risk but would receive the SGIP and potential federal reimbursement. Ms. Ford added that staff and the consultant are working with SGIP to obtain an extension and, if granted, an update will be provided next month. If the extension is not approved, the project will be cancelled and the reservation fee will be refunded.

Ms. Ford stated that the solar project has less urgency, and the consultant is currently performing value engineering. She noted that a key challenge is that the 25-year agreements for the solar projects restrict the land use for solar generation for that period.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that Filanc is continuing to progress through the submittal phase and is preparing for work inside the Water Recycling Plant (WRP) near the Influent Pump Station.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Mr. Harnisch reported that a temporary irrigation system has been installed and the project will soon be in the landscape maintenance phase.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Mr. Harnisch reported that staff is exploring the option to convert existing power from an overhead pole to underground conduit for ease of manhole maintenance. Staff is also investigating potentially raising the canopy in order to fit the electrical equipment.

Moulton/EI Toro Cathodic Repair Project

Mr. Harnisch stated that staff is working with the contractor to complete the construction agreement which will be followed by the Notice to Proceed.

Mr. Harnisch left the meeting at approximately 8:02 a.m.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff have drafted construction easement agreements with GRF and United Mutual. The project is moving toward the final design phase, and staff expects to learn next month if the District's subapplication to FEMA's HMGP will move to the federal level.

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 8:05 a.m.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today in regards to the item on today's Closed Session Agenda

Closed Session

At approximately 8:06 a.m. everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, and Mr. Cafferty.

Regular Session

At approximately 8:16 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 the item on today's Closed Session Agenda. No reportable action was taken.


Adjournment

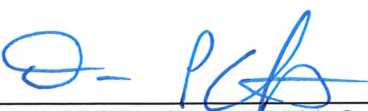
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

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