

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2026

At approximately 8:26 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), VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor (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 Gaskins 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 the California Division of Safety of Dams conducted the annual inspection of the R-6 Reservoir the previous week and they will provide a follow up report.

Vice President Havens inquired about the suspended solids demand doubling. Mr. Cafferty explained that the increase represents a change in the percentage removal, rather than the concentration doubling.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Battery and Solar Projects

Ms. Ford reported that the proposed solar project is time sensitive, and staff is only considering PPA options that require no upfront costs to the contractor and instead establish a contracted rate structure that results in savings. She explained that the assumed savings are based on the receipts of ITC credits, which require either safe harboring certain expenditures by this July or completing construction by the end of next year. Ms. Ford noted that if the District decides to proceed with the solar project, a contract would need to be entered into next month. Initial estimates of savings are approximately \$2-3 million over a 25-year period. The District would be responsible for development fee investments ranging from \$250,000-\$350,000, which are expected to break even within 2-3 years. She added that the proposed location for the solar installation is at the WRP, near the administration building.

After a lot of Board discussion and contemplation with consideration of the timing constraints, financial analysis, space, and the possibility of direct potable reuse at the WRP; the Board agreed to not move forward with the solar project at the WRP.

Ms. Ford reported that Terra Verde recommended evaluating a Private Public Partnership option for the battery project. A third-party provider would finance, construct, and operate the battery system and the District would enter into a financial arrangement. Ms. Ford stated that Terra Verde reached out to qualified vendors and received significant interest. One letter of interest offered an energy savings share of 50%, increasing to 70% over a 15-year battery lifespan. This arrangement is projected to generate significant savings in the tens of thousands of dollars in the first year, with potential to exceed \$400,000 over the 15-year term. She added that staff anticipates a timeline through June to finalize the arrangement, as it is contingent upon the extension of SGIP. Additional evaluation is needed, and staff expects to return with further information to the Board as early as next month.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that the contractor is in the vegetation establishment period of the project and is on track to end in July.

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that yard piping connections are being performed and will be followed by concrete work to install the new overflow channel at Headworks.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that staff is working with Southern California Edison to underground their utility entrance, and staff are also working with Carollo to develop a structural design to lift the canopy to accommodate the height of the new electrical equipment.

Moulton/EI Toro Cathodic Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff have issued the Notice to Proceed and executed all of the contracts. Staff will begin the permitting process, with onsite construction starting in a couple of months. She also reported that staff issued a Request for Proposals for cathodic protection services for the whole system and plans to bring a recommendation for award at next month's meeting.

Asset Management

Ms. Ford reported that, at the previous workshop, staff initiated conceptual level design efforts for highest risk sewer force mains, identifying the Westline, Veeh, and Aliso Creek locations as priorities. She stated that staff is developing the conceptual design for the District's largest capacity force main in-house. Staff plans to present the overall sewer force main asset management data at next month's meeting.

SOCWA Effluent Transmission Main (ETM) Reach B Techite Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that the selected consultant has developed preliminary alternatives. Ms. Ford noted that construction is anticipated to occur next summer and will be coordinated with the Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation project. She added that staff will coordinate with the Laguna Woods golf course, which is expected to be impacted by the new alignment.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford announced that the District's application for the Aliso Creek HMGP has advanced from the state level to the federal level, representing approximately \$7 million in potential grant funding. She also noted that staff is coordinating with GRF and United on securing temporary construction easements for the project.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

Mr. Cafferty reported that the IT agenda item discussed at the Agenda Review meeting was not brought forward today because it falls within the General Manager's purchasing authority.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 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 9:40 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