



## TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | OCTOBER 4, 2023

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### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Mike Safranski, Committee Chair  
Stephen Dopudja, Committee Member

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Fernando Paludi, General Manager  
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager  
Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer  
Gary Kessler, Water Superintendent  
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent  
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant  
Phil Serpas, CMMS/SCADA Administrator  
Roseann Lejsek, Administrative Assistant

### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

There were members of the public present.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Director Safranski called the October 4, 2023 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

### **VISITOR PARTICIPATION**

No comments were received.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Sue Marucci addressed the Committee, and she expressed her concerns with the new adopted meter flat charges. Ms. Marucci provided a handout to the Committee listing her concerns and assumed impacts on elderly customers in her community. Ms. Marucci suggested the District consider setting a different rate between residential and commercial meters.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Dopudja expressed his appreciation to Ms. Marucci for her comments, and he explained that District staff has expedited a proposal to address customer concerns on this matter.

Director Safranski reported that the Energy Efficiency Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled to meet the following morning, and he has requested to place an item on the regular board meeting agenda to present the committee findings.

### **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Paludi reported on the following matters:

- The Meter Resizing Procedure is not agendaized for this meeting, but District staff will agendaize this matter for a future discussion.
- Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and the District has received five complimentary tickets for the Board and staff.

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**ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP**

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Mr. Paludi presented the Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap for Committee review in accordance with the agenda.

- MOTION:** Approve the Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap and recommended that the Board receive and file the same (Consent Calendar) – Director Dopudja
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

**ITEM 2: ARC FLASH STUDY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

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Ms. Lausten presented this matter for Committee review and consideration, and she reported that District staff have evaluated the appropriate needs for this matter and invited qualified firms to bid on the request for proposals (RFP). Ms. Lausten presented the RFP for Committee review, and she reported that this matter is budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Discussion occurred concerning coordination with ACWA/JPIA for infra-red testing of District equipment and project costs. Director Safranski requested additional information related to the project budget.

- MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 3: GOLF CLUB SEWER LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

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Ms. Lausten presented this matter for Committee consideration, and she provided a brief project status update including an overview of the construction plans. Discussion occurred concerning project costs and timeline for completion. Director Safranski noted that the project costs for FY 2023-24 are projected to exceed the adopted budget.

- MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 4: MANUAL TRANSFER SWITCH UPGRADE FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that District staff has identified five water and wastewater facilities that require installation of a manual transfer switch for emergency operations. Mr. Paludi added that these improvements would allow for District Operations to connect backup emergency generators to continue facility operations during power loss or emergency situations. Ms. Lausten provided a handout which summarized the proposed improvement costs provided by Hydrotech Electric. Mr. Paludi mentioned that this is a priority for District staff, and he recommends proceeding with these improvements. The Committee concurred with staff recommendation.

- MOTION:** The Committee recommended forwarding this matter to the Board of Directors for consideration (Action Calendar).

**ITEM 5: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE USBR WATERSMART DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAM: DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECTS FOR FY 2024**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that District staff is applying to the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Drought Response Program Drought Resiliency Project for FY 2024 for improvements to the Dove and Tick Creek pump stations. Mr. Paludi added that this project has already

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been awarded \$380,000 which is approximately 50% of the total project cost, and that this grant award would fund the majority of the remaining balance of the project budget. Discussion occurred concerning the total project budget and costs associated with applying for the USBR grant. Ms. Lausten commented that the FY 2023-24 project budget is \$800,000 and that the project includes construction, electrical, and the purchase of new pumps.

**MOTION:** The Committee recommended forwarding this matter to the Board of Directors for consideration (Action Calendar).

**ITEM 6: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES**

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**1. Saddleback Meadows Development**

Ms. Lausten provided an update on this matter, and she reported that District staff has notified the developer with concerns that the depth of certain sewer manholes exceed the District’s standards and specifications. Discussion occurred concerning potable water services and developer costs associated with the system improvements to meet development water demands. Ms. Lausten mentioned that the District is evaluating the costs for the installation of dedicated services as opposed to an inter-agency agreement to deliver water services from another agency. Director Safranski asked if the proposed homes will include interior fire sprinklers; Ms. Lausten confirmed that the homes will include fire sprinklers.

**2. Oaks at Trabuco Development**

Ms. Lausten reported that the developer has requested conditional will serve letters for two newly constructed homes. Discussion occurred concerning certain sewer system challenges inherent to the development.

**3. Other Projects –  
None**

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 8: WATER SYSTEM UPDATES**

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Mr. Kessler reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior month, and he reported that Water Operations staff has completed the following tasks:

1. Responded to and repaired an emergency pipeline break on Golf Ridge in the Dove Canyon community.
2. Responded to and repaired a broken 4” fire system valve in the Dove Canyon Plaza.
3. Replaced two residential service curb stops on Greenspring and Muirfield in the Dove Canyon community.
4. Worked with Engineering staff on Saddle Crest pump station and reservoir 10-day start up period.
5. Installed data log devices for potable water system monitoring at the Saddle Crest development.
6. Worked with TESCO controls to address systemwide SCADA communication issues.

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported on the recent SCADA system challenges systemwide. Mr. Kessler added that the recently installed HMI screens at District facilities were instrumental during the period of SCADA issues.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 9: WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPDATES**

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Mr. Ulloa reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior month, and he reported that Wastewater Operations staff had completed the following tasks:

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1. Assisted in TESCO Controls in PLC upgrades to Barneburg and Heritage Sewer Lift Stations.
2. Installed new level control systems at Barneburg and Heritage Sewer Lift Stations.
3. Replaced a 6" check valve on the force main at Barneburg Sewer Lift Station.
4. Assisted in the replacement of 4 rollers for the Belt Filter Press at the Robinson Ranch WWTP.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he provided the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) monthly update. Mr. Ulloa presented and reviewed the third-quarter SSMP report with the Committee.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 10: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

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Mr. Stroud reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior month, and he reported that Maintenance staff completed the following tasks:

**Projects and Repairs**

Maintenance staff performed and/or completed the following tasks and projects:

**Water Operations**

1. Assisted Operations with the installation of a new SCADA UPS battery at Dove Tank.
2. New emergency generator "MTS switches" were installed by Hydrotech Electric at: Dove tank, Joplin Tanks, Harris Grade Tanks for telemetry backbone operations during power outages.
3. Assisted Operations at Saddle Crest Booster Pump Station during station startup testing.

**Wastewater Operations**

1. Emergency Work: Worked with Operations on failed NEQ pump at Robinson Ranch WWTP on the evening of 09/01. Assisted with troubleshooting the pump and worked with Hydrotech Electric for pump restoration by the following day.
2. Assisted Operations at Barneburg Sewer Lift Station during SCADA panel upgrades with Hydrotech Electric and TESCO Controls.
3. Assisted Operations at Heritage Sewer Lift Station for SCADA panel upgrades with Hydrotech Electric and TESCO Controls. Mobilized the Godwin Mobile Transfer Pump for station bypass during project work.
4. Assisted Operations reviewing blower room upgrades, fiber optic install, and station operation with Engineering Support Mr. David Rodriguez.

**District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects**

1. Replaced battery in vehicle #10
2. Oil change service and auxiliary lighting repairs on vehicle #12 F-250 service body
3. Oil change service on vehicle #27 F650 (Dump Truck)
4. Quarterly BIT program started and completed.
5. Met with AGM and SCE Field Supervisor for property access concerning power pole upgrades near Robinson Ranch WWTP Reclaimed Water Reservoir.
6. Two staff members attended pump training at Evans Hydro site.
7. Met with Orange County Public Works (OCPW) staff on Trabuco Creek Road grading and road repairs.
8. OCFA (Orange Co Fire Authority) USR (Urban Search and Rescue) team performed trench setup and rescue training at Porter Ranch. This is an annual training event hosted by TCWD.

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**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS**

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There were no others matter reported.

**MOTION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Safranski adjourned the October 4, 2023 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 7:52 a.m.