



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | MAY 6, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Vice President Ed Mandich, Committee Chair
President Stephen Dopudja, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager
Roseann Lejsek, Administrative Assistant
Gary Kessler, Water Operations Superintendent
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice President Mandich called the May 6, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

No visitor participation was received.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

No oral communication was received.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported that the District was awarded a federal grant from the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$577,586 for the Dove & Tick Creek project. Mr. Paludi added that the District was also awarded a grant from the State in the amount of \$379,000 and that with these two grants, the project will be approximately 100% funded with grant funds.

Mr. Perea gave a summary of the El Toro Road sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) and subsequent repair, and he highlighted the system configuration which contributed to the SSO. Mr. Stroud provided additional information on staff's response and noted that IRWD was very helpful in assisting staff with the site cleanup. Mr. Perea expressed his appreciation for both TCWD and IRWD staff response and efforts to mitigate this issue.

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DISCUSSION MATTERS

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

Mr. Paludi presented the Executive Committee Meeting Recap(s) for Committee consideration in accordance with the agenda.

MOTION: Approve the Executive Committee Meeting Recap(s) and recommend the Board of Directors receive and file the same (Consent Calendar) – Director Dopudja

SECOND: Director Mandich

AYES: Directors Mandich & Dopudja

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 2 – 0

ITEM 2: SB 1072 (PADILLA) – PROPOSITION 218 REMEDIES: SUPPORT

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he provided background information on SB 1072 (Padilla). Mr. Paludi reported that currently, water agencies throughout the state are facing legal challenges to their water and wastewater fee structures, specifically the cost of service and proportionality provision of Proposition 218. Mr. Paludi stated that Senator Padilla has proposed SB 1072 to clarify existing law that a refund is not available under Proposition 218 for alleged excess charges resulting from an agency’s rate structure. Mr. Paludi added that this bill will allow agencies to protect and defend their rates.

MOTION: Adopt a SUPPORT position on SB 1072 (Padilla) and authorize the General Manager to sign the coalition letter in support of the legislation – Director Dopudja

SECOND: Director Mandich

AYES: Directors Mandich & Dopudja

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 2 – 0

ITEM 3: BOARD AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

Mr. Paludi provided a handout that included the following agenda planning items for Committee review and consideration:

May 2024

Regular Board Meeting – 5/16

- Award Recycled Water P.S. Improvements Design Contract (E/O) – the Committee recommended moving this item to July
- Award WWTP Blower Replacement Project (E/O) – Mr. Paludi reported that staff is value engineering this project.
- Settlement Offer with Rutter Development (Closed Session)

Trabuco Canyon Public Financing Authority – 5/16

- Approve lending bank and legal documents (F/A)

Special Board Meeting – (5/29 or 5/30)

- Budget Workshop
- Receive/Authorize implementation of salary survey results (F/A)

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June 2024

Regular Board Meeting – 6/20

- Award HR Support Services Contract (Exec and F/A)
- Set Public Hearing for Undeveloped Land Standby Charges (F/A)
- Adopt Resolution Establishing Appropriations Limit for FY 24/25 (F/A)
- Adopt FY 25 Operating and Capital Budgets
- Accept Saddle Crest Facilities

July 2024

Regular Board Meeting – 7/18

- Public Hearing/Adoption of Undeveloped Land Standby Charges (F/A)

Other Potential Future Board Items

- Will Serve Letter/Storage Fee Agreement with Cal Quartet for Saddleback Meadows

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 4: DISCUSSION CONCERNING TOTAL COMPENSATION SURVEY

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he provided a summary on the total compensation survey performed by Ralph Andersen & Associates (Anderson). Mr. Paludi reported that Anderson performed a review of (1) salary and benefits; (2) health benefits methodology; and (3) standby compensation of the same nine comparator agencies in the 2020 survey. Discussion occurred concerning a proposed methodology for establishing the District’s health insurance benefit and Mr. Perea provided a handout with the potential District and employee costs for FY 24/25. Discussion occurred regarding possible options in order to stay competitive on salary as well as benefits, such as a health benefit plan opt-out option, a deferred compensation matching program option, reviewing standby pay and a stipend pay for advanced certifications. Director Dopudja expressed concern with the scope of the total compensation review and requested that staff put together a comprehensive list of comparable compensation for the Committee’s review before the Board Budget Workshop.

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING BOARD ROOM AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM UPGRADES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC MEETING ACCESS

Mr. Perea presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he provided background information on the current audio/visual (A/V) system in the District’s primary public meeting room. Mr. Perea reported that there have been unforeseen meeting challenges, namely hybrid meeting formats, that are not compatible with the current system. Mr. Perea reported that staff solicited proposals from two companies and received only one response. Mr. Perea provided the Committee with a handout of the company’s proposal and upgrade options. Discussion occurred regarding which option(s) may best suit the District’s needs. Mr. Paludi stated that he would like to get feedback from the Board on how they would like meetings to function. The Committee requested that staff bring this as a discussion item to a future Board Meeting.

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

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OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 6: REPORTS OR COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER AND/OR STAFF

2024 Water Awareness Day Event

Mr. Perea provided a brief update on the continued planning efforts for the annual event. Discussion occurred regarding what items to showcase for educational purposes.

Mr. Kessler asked if all District positions have been included in the total compensation survey. Mr. Perea responded that the consultant is finalizing the survey results for Board consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Mandich adjourned the May 6, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.