



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT | OCTOBER 17, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD or District) conducted on October 17, 2024, was called to order by President Stephen Dopudja at 5:31 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Facility located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon, California. Mr. Michael Perea, District Secretary, transcribed the minutes thereof.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Stephen Dopudja
Vice President Ed Mandich
Director Glenn Acosta
Director Don Chadd
Director Michael Safranski

STAFF PRESENT

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

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

Claire Collins, District General Legal Counsel - Hanson & Bridgett, LLP

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of the public present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Mandich led the Board of Directors, District staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

None

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Sue Marucci – Ms. Marucci addressed the Board of Directors with her concerns related to the District’s fixed meter charge, and she expressed her opposition to the District’s indemnification form.

Ray Chandos – Mr. Chandos addressed the Board of Directors with his concerns related to the Board of Directors election, and he stated that he and fellow volunteers experienced attempts to hinder their campaigning efforts within the community. Mr. Chandos stressed that all residents have the right to communicate freely on issues that affect them, and he stated that customers want a free and fair election.

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Fred Yeakel – Mr. Yeakel addressed the Board of Directors with his concerns regarding the installation and necessity of a 2” water meter on his property at the time his property was built.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Director Mandich reported on his attendance at the South Orange County Agencies joint meeting with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Orange County Water District (OCWD).

Director Dopudja acknowledged the public’s concerns regarding issues they experienced while campaigning for the upcoming Board election, and he stated that he supports all candidates in their campaigning efforts.

Director Acosta had no comments.

Director Chadd had no comments.

Director Safranski had no comments.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported that El Toro Water District (ETWD) Director Fred Adjarian has resigned from the ETWD Board of Directors and that the District will be recognizing Director Adjarian’s service at its October 24, 2024 Board Meeting.

Mr. Paludi reported that Southern California Edison issued a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) warning for the next two days due to high winds.

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Dopudja indicated that all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one motion unless a Board member or staff member requests a separate action on a specific item.

- MOTION:** Approve the consent calendar as presented – Director Safranski
- SECOND:** Director Acosta
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta, Chadd & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 5 – 0

ACTION CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 4: RATIFICATION OF DIRECTORS’ FEES AND EXPENSES, AND TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Director consideration and comment, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Finance/Audit Committee.

- MOTION:** Approve the tentative future meetings/attendance items and ratify the Directors’ expenses and fees from September 2024 – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Mandich
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta, Chadd & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

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ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION OF AIRPORT FIRE IMPACTS TO DISTRICT FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that the District is preparing for potential post-fire impacts to District facilities. Mr. Perea reported that although none of the District’s facilities were damaged in the fire, a portion of the District’s Porter property had burned. Mr. Perea provided the Board with pictures of the damaged property and surrounding areas. Mr. Perea stated that the District is working with Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Orange County Public Works (OCPW) to submit a claim for damages, and assess the area for debris flow hardening surrounding the District’s well facilities.

MOTION: No action was taken.

ITEM 6: MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARDOUS MITIGATION PLAN (MJHMP) UPDATE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Engineering/Operations Committee. Mr. Perea provided an overview of the plan’s hazard condition categories and goals, the District’s extensive public outreach, and the timeline for completion of the updated plan. Mr. Perea expressed his appreciation to Ms. Lausten and David Rodriguez for their efforts in gathering information for this plan update.

MOTION: No action was taken.

ENGINEERING MATTERS

ITEM 7: GRANT RESOLUTION FOR LIVE OAK PIPELINE IMPROVEMENTS – DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Engineering/Operations Committee. Mr. Paludi reported that staff is diligently applying for grant funding to support various Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, and he stated that the District will be submitting an application for grant funds with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to offset costs associated with the Live Oak Canyon Pipeline Replacement project. Mr. Paludi provided a brief overview of the project and estimated costs.

MOTION: Adopt Resolution No. 2024-1338 – Authorizing the Submittal of an Application for the USBR “WaterSMART” Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025” Grant Program – Director Safranski

SECOND: Director Mandich

AYES: Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta, Chadd & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 8: GRANT RESOLUTION FOR DOVE DAM OUTLET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Finance/Audit Committee. Mr. Paludi reported the District is applying for grant funding through the California Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program. Mr. Paludi stated that DWR may award 50% of the total allowable project costs up to \$1.5 million dollars.

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Director Safranski thanked staff for pursuing grant funding in order to maintain the District’s Capital Improvement Plan.

Director Chadd echoed Director Safranski’s comments.

- MOTION:** Adopt Resolution No. 2024-1339 Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta, Chadd & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 5 – 0

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 9: LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE INFORMATIONAL MATTER(S)

Mr. Paludi reported that Ms. Collins will bring a legislative report to next month’s Board meeting which will include a summary of the signed bills going into effect on January 1, 2025.

Mr. Paludi reported that the District is working with neighboring agencies to offer as well as acquire letters of support for the Dove Dam grant application from Dove Canyon Master Association and Santa Margarita Water District.

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

CLOSED SESSION

Before entering closed session, Director Mandich recused himself from the closed session.

Director Chadd did not enter the closed session and left the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

The Board of Directors, with the exception of Directors Mandich and Chadd, entered closed session in accordance with the agenda at 6:08 p.m. The General Manager, Assistant General Manager, District Engineer, Water Operations Superintendent and District General Counsel participated in the closed session.

This closed session ended at 6:32 p.m.

ITEM 10: REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Collins reported that the Board of Directors met in closed session to review the matter as agendized, and that there was no action to be reported in closed session.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

None

OTHER INFORMATION/MATTERS

None

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Dopudja adjourned the October 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting at 6:32 p.m.