



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Glenn Acosta, Committee Chair
Mark Anderson, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager
Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer
Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Superintendent
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant

STAFF ABSENT

Gary Kessler, Water Superintendent

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Acosta called the February 5, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

No comments were received.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

No comments were received.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

None

ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

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

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee recommended forwarding this matter to the Board of Directors (Consent Calendar).

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

ITEM 2: SOURCES OF SUPPLY AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – JANUARY 28, 2025 MEETING

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that the District formed an Ad Hoc Committee to focus on the planned improvements for the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) system and transmission main pipeline, which are currently offline. Director Anderson provided a summary of the Committee discussion concerning the current operational status of the pipeline and the appropriate solution, including, but not limited to rehabilitating the pipeline. Director Anderson added that this project is not in the current adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget but that slip lining the pipeline seemed to be the best solution, and that Ms. Lausten was putting together budgetary costs for the repair. Discussion occurred concerning the prioritization of District capital improvement projects and the reliance on one source of water supply from Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD). Director Anderson also stated that the District is in a vulnerable position going into the summer months where demand increases, and he stated that the District is purchasing treated water from IRWD at a premium. Director Anderson stated that Mr. Paludi was to set up a meeting with IRWD to discuss the District's costs for treated water and alternative sources of supply, and he stated that these items would be brought to the full Board once a full budget estimate and timeline are confirmed.

Mr. Paludi stated that filter #4 at DWTP still needs structural design and repairs, and he stated that if the pipeline is going to be slip-lined that the long-term fixes for the plant will need to be evaluated and he believes the total costs to be between seven and eight million dollars. Mr. Paludi stated that the District will need to take a hard look at the CIP and remove projects or raise rates again. Mr. Paludi stated that we need to look at all options and that the Board deserves to have other options.

Ms. Lausten stated that the slip lining material will take approximately three months to procure, and that the contractor will be able to slip line one thousand feet of pipeline per day. Ms. Lausten stated that there is an option to use an emergency contractor if we want to expedite the process.

Director Acosta asked if there is enough room in the CIP to defer other projects. Mr. Paludi stated that there is the potential to defer projects and that the District has approval to reallocate capital funding in order to complete these projects.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION CONCERNING TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT SERVER UPGRADE PROJECT – CAL-OES CYBERSECURITY GRANT FUNDED

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that the District has been awarded a Cal OES Cybersecurity grant. Mr. Perea provided a background of the original server project and budget totaling \$180,000 which was approved by the Board of Directors in August 2024. Mr. Perea reported that soon after the Board's approval for the original project, Cal OES announced the Cybersecurity grant funding up to \$250,000 per recipient without agency matching. Mr. Perea reported District staff worked with Highroad IT and Soto Resources to apply for the grant, and the District was awarded the full \$250,000 grant in December 2024. Mr. Perea stated that staff is asking the Board to increase the original budget of \$180,000 to \$300,000, with \$250,000 funded by the Cal OES Cybersecurity grant. Mr. Perea noted that this would bring the District's actual costs down to \$50,000 instead of the original \$180,000. Mr. Perea added that as a condition of the grant, Cal OES requires a resolution to be passed and that the recommended action will be amended to include the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors approve the following actions:

1. Amend the FY 2024-25 Capital Improvement Program Server Upgrade Project budget to \$300,000 with partial funding of \$250,000 from the approved CalOES Cybersecurity Grant (Action Calendar).

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

2. Approve the Highroad IT Quote No. TCWD25-0129A in the amount of \$279,146.26 for the TCWD Server Project Upgrade (Action Calendar).

ITEM 4: 2024 UPDATE TO STANDARD DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND CONSTRUCTION MANUAL

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten provided a brief overview of the contents of the manual, and she stated the last update was completed 17 years ago. Ms. Lausten reported that the manual was currently being reviewed by General Counsel and that this matter would be brought as an informational item to the February Regular Board Meeting and final approval in March. Ms. Lausten added that Engineering worked with Mr. Kessler and Mr. Ulloa and that the departments have thoroughly reviewed the manual. Discussion occurred on whether the Saddleback Meadows developer is aware of the new proposed standards; Director Anderson stated that it may be prudent to provide the developer with the District's most current standards and drawings.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2025-1340 adopting the Domestic and Non-Domestic Water and Sewer Design & Construction Manual (Action Calendar).

ITEM 5: RESOLUTION CLARIFYING APPLICATION OF IN-LIEU STORAGE FEES

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he stated that General Legal Counsel is preparing supporting documents that will be provided at the Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Paludi stated that the District intends to provide additional clarification on which developments require the preparation of a sub-area master plan or may pay in-lieu storage fees. Mr. Paludi stated that the General Counsel has recommended that the General Manager draft a memo clarifying the District's application of in-lieu storage fees with subsequent ratification by the Board of Directors by resolution at the Regular Board Meeting. Discussion occurred regarding the current in-lieu storage fees.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 6: POTABLE WATER SYSTEM STORAGE EVALUATION 2024 UPDATE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that Hazen & Sawyer was retained to review and update the District's storage inventory and future needs. Ms. Lausten reported that the District's 2022 Master Plan states that the District's storage criteria is to have 7 days of emergency storage, and that this is consistent with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MET) criteria. Ms. Lausten provided the Committee with a summary of Hazen's evaluation results. Discussion occurred regarding the District's 7-day criteria versus actual current days of storage, and whether the District is maximizing storage.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors receive and file the Trabuco Canyon Water District – 2024 Storage Evaluation report (Action Calendar).

ITEM 7: GOLF CLUB SEWER LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT COMPLETION

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten provided a summary of the improvements made to the station from 2021-2024, and she stated that the project costs have been approximately \$3 million over the last four to five years. Discussion occurred regarding the original scope and cost of the project, and Mr. Paludi stated that the project has evolved over time.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 8: HERITAGE SEWER LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE 1 COMPLETION

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he stated that Phase 1 is complete of this multi-phase project. Ms. Lausten provided a brief summary of the Phase 1 improvements made to the station from 2021-2024 and she provided a brief overview of the improvements planned for Phase 2 of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 9: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. District Facility Backup Generator Power Summary

Mr. Paludi commended Mr. Perea’s efforts in working with staff to identify the District’s energy needs. Mr. Perea expressed his appreciation to the superintendents for their assistance in identifying the District’s facilities and potential vulnerabilities. Mr. Perea provided a handout to the Committee with staff’s findings. Mr. Stroud provided an update on staff’s efforts to purchase small and medium-sized generators, and he discussed the challenges of mobility and placement of larger generators.

2. Saddle Crest Development Update

Mr. Paludi provided an update on this matter, and he reported that the Saddle Crest settlement is close to a final resolution. Mr. Paludi stated that the final inspection and acceptance of facilities should happen in the next two to three months. Mr. Paludi added that the District will need to complete a small CIP project of approximately \$300,000 for improvements to the system.

3. Oaks at Trabuco Development Update

Mr. Paludi provided an update on this matter, and he provided a brief overview of the Oaks at Trabuco Development’s construction timeline. Mr. Paludi stated that the District has a contractual agreement with the Developer to accept and operate the package sewer plant that needs to be honored. Mr. Paludi stated that the District will bring the plant online and operate on a provisional basis.

4. Other Projects

None

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 10: WATER SYSTEM UPDATES

In Mr. Kessler’s absence, Mr. Stroud reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior month, and he reported that Water Operations staff had completed the following tasks:

1. Worked with contractor to replace 8” isolation valve on the slope at the end on Foxtail in Dove Canyon.
2. Serviced all 4 pump flow control valves at El Toro BPS.
3. Worked to keep generator power running at all key locations during extended PSPS event.
4. Exercised 102 valves in the Dove Canyon and Rancho Cielo service areas.

Mr. Perea presented the Water System Summary for Committee review. Mr. Perea reported that Mr. Serpas was working with his counterparts at Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) to receive certain SCADA information from the Baker Water Treatment Plant . Director Anderson noted that the Santiago Aqueduct Commission reported the potential for a temporary shutdown of the SAC line in Fall 2025 for approximately one week for pipeline realignment.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

ITEM 11: WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPDATES

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

1. Repaired 8" line break at Dove Recycle Pump Station.
2. Assisted in the fiber optic work at the WWTP.
3. Assisted in the cutover to the new SCADA system at Dove and Tick Creek Dry Season Recovery System.
4. Replaced the call-out float at Plano Sewer Lift Station.
5. Replaced a submersible pump at Shadow Rock Dry Season Recovery.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review. .

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 12: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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. Mobilized emergency generators to Field Office/Booster One pump station.
2. Mobilized emergency generator to Canyon Creek booster pump station.
3. Oil changes on booster pumps at Plano Intertie.
4. Hydrotech disconnected pump #2 at Shadow Rock dry season recovery for removal.

Wastewater Operations

1. El Toro Lift Station bypassed due to Surge Tank system failure. Waiting for replacement parts.
2. Golf Club Lift Station bypass to replace failed flow meter with new flow meter. PacHydro and Hydrotech Electric performing work.
3. MWDOC site visit at WWTP is preps for Boy Scout field trip.
4. Assisted Wastewater with pipe/header repair at Dove Recycle Booster Pump Station.
5. Rebuilt slope at Dove Recycle Booster Station due to water erosion.
6. Continued Fiber Optic install with Hydrotech at WWTP.

District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Assisted with re-fueling emergency generators during SCE PSPS.
2. Oil change on truck #25.
3. Sent out Truck #18 to upholstery shop for front seat repair.
4. Sent out Truck #1 for new brakes and suspension alignment.
5. Attended CERT training at OC Sheriff Training Center with WEROC, El Toro WD, and City of Orange. Emergency water distribution displays were onsite and demonstrated to CERT participants.
6. Sat on an interview panel for City of Westminster to begin a hiring process for Meter Dept foreman.
7. SMOG HD diesel trucks.

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Mr. Perea reported that he and staff are working with MWDOC to host approximately 80 Boy Scouts in April, and that the District plans to host a smaller troop from Dove Canyon in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

There were no other matters reported.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Acosta adjourned the February 5, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 9:35 a.m.