



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | APRIL 2, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mark Anderson, Committee Chair
Glenn Acosta, 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
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant

STAFF ABSENT

Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Superintendent

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Anderson called the April 2, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 8:02 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).

ITEM 2: ROBINSON RANCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BLOWER MODIFICATION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that the project design includes the incorporation of sound panels and is nearing completion. Ms. Lausten provided a brief overview of the project, and she reported that sound panels are included in the design bid to mitigate the sound increase. Ms. Lausten added that the sound panels are broken out as an optional bid item and they could be added at a later time, if staff receives noise complaints. Ms. Lausten stated that the design bid will be ready to go out in two weeks, and that the project budget will be separated over two fiscal years. Ms. Lausten added that she anticipates construction to begin in Summer. A brief discussion occurred regarding the disposal of the old blowers.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 3: RECYCLED WATER RESERVOIR DAM V-DITCH AND STORM DRAIN CULVERT REPAIR

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that a recent pipeline break at the Dove and Robinson Ranch Recycled Water Pump Stations (DCRRPS) damaged the V-ditch that originates at the base of Trabuco Dam and extends to a culvert structure underneath the lake access road near the William Lyon Pond spillway structure. Ms. Lausten stated the District is responsible for maintaining the V-ditch in order to keep water flowing into Dove Lake. Ms. Lausten added that this project is not in the original CIP budget, but because repair work on the V-Ditch is needed, and the culvert has also been in need of repair, it will be more cost-effective to replace the entire V-Ditch now. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the bid responses, and she stated that staff recommends awarding the contract to JES Engineering. Mr. Stroud briefly reported on the challenges in working at the bottom of the V-ditch due to space constraints and that is another reason to replace the entire V-Ditch at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: Committee to recommend the Board of Directors award a construction contract for the Recycled Water Reservoir Dam V-Ditch and Culvert Repairs to JES Engineering in the amount of \$162,365.35, plus a 10% contingency of \$16,000, for a not to exceed amount of \$178,365.35.

ITEM 4: QUARTERLY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten presented the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget summary update for FY 2024-25. Ms. Lausten highlighted the projects that have been completed since the previous quarterly update in January 2025, along with various open projects and their current status. Ms. Lausten noted that adjustments are being made to ensure the District stays within the overall CIP budget.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 5: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. Update on 16" Transmission Pipeline Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Lausten provided a handout to the Committee outlining the multi-phase pipeline rehabilitation. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the proposed replacement methods, and she stated that she will be meeting with contractors the following day to obtain a cost estimate for Phase 1a of the project. Ms. Lausten also stated that staff is working on a design to repair Filter #4 at the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP), and she stated that the design should be completed in three to four weeks. Discussion occurred regarding the pipeline rehabilitation options and the costs for repair.

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2. Orange County Public Works (OCPW) Trabuco Creek Bridge Project Update

Ms. Lausten provided an update on this matter, and she reported that she has plans to meet with County staff the following week to review the project and the potential to relocate the District’s pipeline. The Committee suggested that staff reach out to District Supervisor Don Wagner for assistance if needed.

3. Planet Bids; Online District Procurement Tool

Ms. Lausten provided an update on this matter, and she reported that Planet Bids is an online procurement tool that staff has deployed on the District’s website. Ms. Lausten stated that staff will have training the following week, and she stated that projects will be added to the site very soon. A brief discussion occurred regarding costs for the initial set up and subsequent years.

4. SCADA Project Update

Mr. Serpas provided an update on this matter, and he reported that upgrading to the communications system is in progress. Mr. Serpas stated that this phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of FY 2025. Mr. Serpas also stated that staff is preparing an RFP for the SCADA Integrator On-Call Services to include fixing mobile applications, smaller control items, and on-call services for troubleshooting.

5. State Water Board Cross Connection Control Plan Handbook (CCCPH) Requirements & Plan Adoption Update

Mr. Perea provided an update on this matter, and he reported that staff will be bringing the final draft to the Committee next month for review and consideration. Mr. Perea provided the publication requirement timelines. Mr. Perea added that adoption of the CCCPH will simplify communication with customers regarding requirements and costs.

6. Other Projects

None

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 6: WATER SYSTEM UPDATES

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

1. Worked with WM Lyles on SCADA cut over at the Ground Water Treatment Facility (GWTF).
2. Flushed 11 dead-end hydrants and blowoffs
3. Serviced 73 valves in Walden Homes, Trabuco Market Place and lower portion of Robinson Ranch.
4. Worked with Engineering to formulate a plan to repair/replace Main Transmission Line (MTL).
5. Replaced 8 drain valves on water filters at Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP).

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 7: WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPDATES

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

1. Replaced 2” pipe train that feeds Recycle Water to Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD).

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2. Assisted in the cutover to the new SCADA system Barneburg / Golf Club / Bell Canyon / Heritage / Santiago Lift Station.
3. Assisted in the cutover to the refurbished SCADA system at the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).
4. Calibrate all flow meters at the WWTP.
5. Working through Cartegraph to organize and locate assets as they apply to Wastewater Operations.

Mr. Perea presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that recycled water demand has decreased due to rainfall during the previous month. Mr. Perea also reported that Dove Lake is full, and he stated that the reservoir surface level was at 1,273 feet. Mr. Perea reported that Operations received sewer odor concerns in a community adjacent to the Santiago Canyon Estates, and he explained that there are private sewers situated below the District's gravity sewer. Mr. Perea added that staff is working with residents to educate them on how the system works and that the odor problems are associated with the private systems. Regardless, the District will increase the frequency of line cleaning to quarterly.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 8: 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. Hydrotech at Booster one/Field office to add "run lights" to pump panels
2. Hydrotech at DWTP to continue booster III soft start replacement/programming

Wastewater Operations

1. Assisted waste ops at WWTP shut down for fiber optic cut-over
2. Assisted with Barneburg Lift Station cut over
3. Replaced battery at Barneburg Lift Station emergency gen
4. Hydrotech emergency callout to Golf Club lift for soft start replacement and new cable pull
5. Repair/grade access road behind WWTP
6. V-Ditch repair work with JES at Res One
7. Hydrotech at WWTP continuing electrical wire ID'ing at blower room

District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Met with Verizon rep for field inspection on cellular phones
2. Replaced batteries with Vactor
3. Replaced batteries in Pete slide rail
4. WEROC inspection at Trabuco Creek debris flow

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

Mr. Serpas provided an update on the District's Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) Cartegraph. Mr. Serpas provided a handout to the Committee of a high-level task status summary by department, and he reported that staff is currently working to add more historical data to the system.

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Mr. Perea noted that this asset data will assist with budget planning in future years. Discussion occurred regarding the data analysis abilities within Cartegraph. The Committee requested to see a summary breakdown by facility and requested that staff bring this report to a future Finance/Audit Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the April 2, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 9:08 a.m.