



## **TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | MAY 7, 2025**

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### **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  
Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Superintendent  
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent  
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant  
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant  
Phil Serpas, CMMS/SCADA Administrator

### **STAFF ABSENT**

None

### **DISTRICT CONSULTANTS**

None

### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

None

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Director Anderson called the May 7, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 8:00 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**

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

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

**ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF 2024 ORANGE COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Mr. Perea provided a brief overview of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and he reported that District staff collaborated with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), and Herdon Group – HSG to provide comments and edits to the Draft Administrative Report and Annex Jurisdictional Profile (Annex) specific to TCWD. Mr. Perea also reported that staff worked with the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) to submit the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which has been submitted to CalOES for final approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Committee recommended the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2025-1345 approving the 2024 Orange County Water and Wastewater Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Action Calendar).

**ITEM 3: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF UPDATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF COUNTYWIDE MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ALERT OC)**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Mr. Perea provided a brief background of the County's Mass Notification System (Alert OC), and he reported that in 2013 the Sheriff's Department made this system available to other public agencies throughout the County, including Trabuco Canyon Water District. Mr. Perea noted that there is no cost to use the system. Mr. Perea stated for the District to continue to participate and use the system, the Board of Directors would need to approve the updated MOU with the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the County of Orange and Participants for Use of Countywide Mass Notification System and authorize the General Manager to execute the Public Mass Notification System Individual User Agreement (Action Calendar).

**ITEM 4: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HEADWORKS REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that this Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project is critical for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ms. Lausten reported that the project was originally budgeted to rehabilitate the existing system, however, staff has identified a more efficient and reliable alternative. Ms. Lausten provided a summary of vendor pricing for rehabilitation, equipment and turnkey project costs. Ms. Lausten stated that staff recommends purchasing the Duperon system, with installation to be completed in-house to save costs. Mr. Ulloa added that the current system has had several components replaced throughout the years, and that parts are becoming obsolete.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Committee to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to purchase the Duperon FlexRake bar screen climber and compactor from JBI Water and Wastewater in the amount of \$334,000.

**ITEM 5: DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT TRANSMISSION MAIN REHABILITATION**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that the technical memorandum was completed by Hazen and Sawyer. Ms. Lausten provided a summary of the project phasing within the memo, and she explained the various options for pipeline replacement. Discussion occurred regarding the project timeline, and the Committee requested that staff put together a schedule and timeline for the full Board's review. Ms. Lausten added that a section of the pipeline has been sent for pipe bursting testing, and she

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stated that staff should receive the video results within the week. Mr. Paludi added that a full update will be brought to the Board at the May Regular Board Meeting.

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

**ITEM 6: PRELIMINARY 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he noted that the Committee was provided a handout showing the 10-year CIP dashboard that Ms. Warner and Mr. Berg put together based on the financial model. Mr. Paludi stated that the 10-year CIP is based on the 2022 Asset Condition Assessment as well as other important projects as identified by staff. Mr. Paludi went through the District-wide projects as well as potable, recycled water and wastewater projects. Discussion occurred regarding various projects, and Mr. Perea noted that staff is going through the Condition Assessment to identify projects that staff has completed in-house. Mr. Perea commended staff for their hard work to control costs. Ms. Lausten also identified current projects where staff is working to cut costs. The Committee requested that staff bring two rate increase options to the budget workshop for the Board’s consideration.

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

**ITEM 7: UPDATE ON STATE WATER BOARD CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PLAN HANDBOOK (CCCPH) REQUIREMENTS AND CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL MANAGEMENT PLAN (CCCMP) ADOPTION**

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Mr. Paludi introduced this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that this policy update was managed by Mr. Perea with the assistance of John Robinson Consulting and participation of Orange County water agencies. Mr. Perea provided an overview of the adopted State Water Board regulations and the District’s proposed Cross-Connection Control Management Plan (CCCMP). Mr. Perea highlighted the benefits of the District’s Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters as this system provided twenty-four-hour monitoring of reverse flows which may indicate a potential cross-connection which provides an increased security for the District’s distribution system, results in more accurate hazard assessment reporting, and a cost savings to residential customers by limiting the mandatory installation of backflow prevention assemblies on services with presumed hazards. Mr. Perea reviewed the public hearing schedule with the Committee, and he reported that staff is working with general counsel to meet these requirements.

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

**ITEM 8: HARRIS GRADE TANK REPLACEMENT COST ESTIMATE UPDATE**

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Mr. Paludi introduced this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that District staff have worked with Tetra Tech (Consultant) to update the reservoir siting study for this project. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the Harris Grade Reservoir Siting Study completed by Tetra Tech in 2020, and she reported that Tetra Tech has updated the engineer’s estimate for the construction of 1.7 MG steel tank reservoir. Discussion occurred concerning the updated estimate. Director Anderson asked if this project was included in the District’s capital improvement plan (CIP); Mr. Paludi indicated that the project was not included in the CIP.

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

**ITEM 9: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES**

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**1. Report on Completion of WWTP Handrail Replacement Project by District Personnel**

Mr. Ulloa provided a brief presentation on this project, and he reported that although the original project was budgeted at \$100,000 and the procured vendor quote for this work was \$270,722. Mr. Ulloa reported that District ordered the materials and completed the work during the normal workday in between duties, and the

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work was completed for approximately \$20,000. The Committee commended staff for their cost control efforts and work on this project.

**2. Saddle Crest Development Update**

Mr. Paludi provided a brief update on this matter, and he reported that the settlement agreement has been provided to the developer.

**3. District CMMS Asset Summary Update**

Mr. Serpas provided a brief status update on the planned asset summary report, and he shared that he is working with Cartegraph (vendor) to re-categorize all assets to facilitate this type of report.

**4. WWTP SCADA Project Update**

Ms. Lausten reported this project is close to completion, pending some wiring configuration work in the Operations room that will be performed by Hydrotech Electric (Contractor).

**5. Other Projects**

None

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

**ITEM 10: 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 had completed the following tasks:

1. Excavated and removed 2 four-foot sections of 16" Main Transmission Line at DWTP for Pipe Splitting Testing
2. Rebuild customer meter services on Hamilton Trail
3. Rebuild customer meter services on Live Oak Canyon
4. Rebuild customer's boost pump discharge line
5. Serviced 85 valves in the Robinson Ranch service area
6. Installed Anodes on Filter #4 and began putting filter #4 back together at DWTP

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

Director Anderson related that residents in the Hamilton Oaks community have expressed their appreciation of District staff for their work on recent repairs and meter downsizing requests.

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

**ITEM 11: 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:

1. Assisted with UPS replacement at Dove Recycle Pump Station.
2. Installed a new turbidity meter at the WWTP.
3. Cleaned and graded spoils yard at the WWTP.
4. Prepped and conducted a plant tour for Scouting of America group.
5. Performed weed abatement at WWTP per Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD).

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

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Director Anderson inquired about the WWTP solids handling process; Mr. Ulloa provided a brief overview of the solids retention time (SRT) at the WWTP which results in fewer sludge hauling trips.

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

**ITEM 12: 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. Schedule Duthie Power to remove mobile emergency generator from Field Office/Booster One site
2. New Dimension cleaned out attic space at Field Office/Booster One for Hydrotech Electric to inspect wiring issues and repair

**Wastewater Operations**

1. Receive two new WILO pumps for Via Alegre LS

**District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects**

1. Clean, prep, inspect truck #17 for use
2. Clean, prep, inspect truck #10 for use
3. Service and inspect boat for use
4. Schedule Duthie Power to perform fuel tank replacement on TCWD Cummins Mobile generator
5. JPIA pressure vessel inspection
6. Weed abatement program
7. Prep two items for auction, one 2014 F250 service body and one pickup truck bed (removed for service body install); staff will proceed with the District’s Surplus Property Disposal Policy on this matter.

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

**ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS**

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Mr. Perea reported that the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) will be presenting a certificate of recognition to the District for hosting a tour of the Robinson Ranch WWTP for the Boy Scouts of America.

Director Anderson suggested that District staff evaluate the potential for a solar farm on Porter Property; Mr. Paludi indicated that District staff has recently issued the Porter Property Public Land Disposition RFQ and will reconvene the District Properties Committee to oversee this process.

**RECOMMENDATION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Anderson adjourned the May 7, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 9:50 a.m.