



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | JUNE 4, 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
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 June 4, 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

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: ROBINSON RANCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BLOWER MODIFICATION PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he expressed his thanks to Ms. Lausten and staff for their hard work putting together the bid packet, which resulted in multiple responses. Mr. Paludi noted that one bid came in lower than the engineer’s estimate. Ms. Lausten complimented Mr. Ulloa and his team for their joint effort in putting together the bid packet for this project. Ms. Lausten reported that the bid was sent to eight contractors and that the District received four bids, and that staff recommends awarding the construction contract to SS Mechanical. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the bid summary, and she stated that items 1 through 15 would be awarded, but that optional item 16 – sound panels and accessories, will not be awarded. Ms. Lausten added that the sound study does not indicate that sound panels will be needed and therefore, will not be awarded at this time. Mr. Paludi stated that this project is expected to be completed in early 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: Committee recommended the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to award the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant Blower Modification Project to SS Mechanical Construction Corp. in the amount of \$919,022, with a 10% contingency of \$91,900 for a not to exceed amount of \$1,010,922 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 3: DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT TRANSMISSION MAIN REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that she worked with Mr. Kessler to address bid questions from vendors, and she stated that she will be sending out an addendum responding to these questions in advance of the bid due date of June 10. Discussion occurred regarding the proposed construction methods. Mr. Paludi stated that this item will be added to the Regular Board Meeting agenda for award, and he added that Director Mandich requested that the Sources of Supply Ad Hoc Committee schedule a meeting for June 16 to review the bids prior to the Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 4: PRELIMINARY 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that staff provided a District-wide 10-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) handout for discussion. Mr. Paludi highlighted proposed FY 2026 CIP projects for Potable Water, Recycled Water, and Wastewater Systems, including costs. Discussion occurred regarding the difference in rates between potable water and recycled water. Mr. Paludi provided a brief history of discounts provided to customers as an incentive to purchase recycled water. Further discussion occurred regarding the value of recycled water and possibly reviewing recycled water use and the cost of recovery.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 5: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. Heritage Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Update

Ms. Lausten reported that this project is in the design phase. Ms. Lausten stated that the design will be completed in approximately six weeks and that the plans will be brought to the Committee for review. Ms. Lausten added that the previous Committee requested a block wall be installed, and she stated that she is looking for an alternative solution. Ms. Lausten noted that she is working with the HOA on this matter.

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2. 2025 Consumer Confidence Report

Mr. Paludi reported that the District entered into a shared services agreement with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to assist Ms. Lausten and Mr. Kessler in completing the annual water quality report. Mr. Paludi stated that the report is published on the District’s website and a notice of the website address is provided to customers on the June utility bill, and he added that as a cost savings measure, a limited number of physical copies are printed and made available.

3. Saddle Crest Development Update

Mr. Paludi reported that the Saddle Crest agreement has been signed and that the District is waiting for the bills of sale to be completed and sent over. Mr. Paludi stated that staff will bring this item to the Board for acceptance of on-site water and sewer facilities.

4. Saddleback Meadows Development Update

Mr. Paludi reported that Trumark (developer) is in discussions with California Quartet to acquire the development, and that there are ongoing discussions regarding the water storage requirements. Mr. Paludi noted that the Board approved an agreement related to this matter that no other actions have been taken by the District at this time.

5. District CMMS Asset Summary Update

Mr. Perea provided a brief update in Mr. Serpas’ absence. Mr. Perea reported that staff is updating asset information in the CMMS system, and that Mr. Serpas prepared a Department CMMS Monthly Status Report handout to ensure the Committee was updated with the most current information. Mr. Perea also reported that Mr. Serpas sent out an RFP for SCADA On Call Maintenance services to five firms and that the District received three proposals. Mr. Perea stated that Mr. Serpas will bring an update to the Committee next month.

6. Other Projects

Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) – Ms. Lausten reported that the District will be entering into a shared services agreement with MWDOC to complete the District’s UWMP.

Cross Connection Control Management Plan – Mr. Perea reported that a Public Hearing will be held at the June Regular Board Meeting to receive public comment relating to adoption of the TCWD Cross Connection Control Ordinance.

Director Anderson noted that he has received feedback from members of his community that staff is doing a great job with the meter downsizing program.

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. Repaired a potable water service line leak on Saratoga in the Dove Canyon community.
2. Worked with Ferreira Construction to abandon two valves in the Cooks Corner intersection on Santiago Canyon Road.
3. Conducted two fire flow tests in the Saddle Crest community and Dove Canyon Plaza.
4. Repaired two air vacs on Live Oak Canyon Road and Hamilton Trail.
5. Serviced 59 valves in the Trabuco Oaks community.

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Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he noted that the District had not been made aware that Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) changed their meter from gallons to cubic feet at the beginning of this year. Mr. Kessler stated that the information in the report has been corrected.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 7: WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPDATES

Mr. Ulloa reported that due to an oversight, the Wastewater System Updates report provided with the meeting materials was outdated. Mr. Ulloa provided a current staff report handout to the Committee at the time of the meeting. Mr. Ulloa reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior month, and he reported that Wastewater Operations staff had completed the following tasks:

1. Replaced five 8” filter valves at the WWTP.
2. Cleaned and repaired the wash assembly for the Belt Filter Press at the WWTP.
3. Installed new D.O. probes for the SBR tanks at the WWTP.
4. Prepped and conducted a plant tour for the Scouts.
5. Removed an old irrigation system on the reservoir and performed weed abatement.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that the reclaimed reservoir was at 1,270 feet and that Dove Lake is spilling.

Mr. Ulloa presented the annual Sewer System Monitoring Plant Program Audit, and he provided an overview of the audit results for Committee consideration. Mr. Ulloa indicated that the final audit report will be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board.

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. Assisted Water Operations in meeting with Orange County Public Works (OCPW).
2. Worked with Hydrotech Electric at Field Office/Booster Pump Station (BPS) One to replace damaged wiring in attic.
3. Attended job walk at Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) and Bike Trail for Transmission Main Pipeline Rehabilitation Project.
4. Performed Preventative Maintenance at DWTP, Falcon BPS, Topanga BPS, Robinson BPS, and Field Office – Oil change and grease motors/pumps.

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Wastewater Operations

1. Assisted Operations and Beavens Systems on new SCADA system at WWTP.
2. Performed weed abatement at WWTP and Porter Ranch.

District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Fleet Preventative Maintenance on Vehicle No. 30
2. Inspect CAT Skid Steer and worked with vendor to install non-pneumatic wheels and tires.
3. Maintenance team attended pump class training.
4. Ordered and received sand, base, and rock from GreenStone Materials.
5. UPDATE: District mobile generator repairs are almost completed; new fuel tank installation.

Mr. Perea reported that due to slides and debris flow, Orange County Public Works (OCPW) will be installing a gate at Trabuco Creek Road, which will go across the District's property. Mr. Perea reported the area will be closed to the public, and that access to the area will be limited to property owners.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

There were no other matters reported.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the June 4, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 9:24 a.m.