



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | AUGUST 6, 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 August 6, 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.

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

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ITEM 2: DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT TRANSMISSION MAIN & FILTER 4 REHABILITATION UPATE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten provided an update on the material delivery schedules for phases 1A and 1B of the transmission main pipeline rehabilitation project. Ms. Lausten reported that an RFP has been issued for construction management, and she added that the results will be presented at the Regular Board meeting with staff's recommendation for award. A brief discussion occurred regarding the need to notify businesses located in close proximity to the work site.

Ms. Lausten provided a brief update on the Filter 4 rehabilitation project, and she stated that the project will take a few days to complete once construction begins.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 3: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. Heritage SLS Improvements

Ms. Lausten reported that this project is in the final design phase, and that the project is scheduled to go out to bid the following week.

2. Saddle Crest Reservoir/Pump Station Piping Improvements

Ms. Lausten reported that the pipe improvement plans are complete, and the bid package will be issued soon. Ms. Lausten added that the costs for the project are estimated at \$170k.

3. RRWWTP Blower Equipment Station and Blower Relocation

Ms. Lausten reported that SS Mechanical is on board for this project. Ms. Lausten added that the District has received the blowers and staff anticipates sending out a bid for construction management shortly.

4. Other Projects

V-Ditch Replacement Project – Ms. Lausten reported that the project has been completed, and a guardrail has been installed at the culvert crossing.

Hamilton Oaks Community Fire Hydrants – Mr. Perea reported that he and staff performed preliminary pressure tests on all of the fire hydrants on Hamilton Trail, and that the results have been provided to Hazen & Sawyer for further discussion and evaluation. Mr. Perea added that an update will be provided to the Committee and the community at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 4: 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. Replaced another curb stop in Saddle Crest.
2. Raised 6 valve cans in the Trabuco Oaks area.
3. Mr. Brent Monson attended Cross Connection Control training at USC.
4. Worked with hazmat specialist to dispose of 1,700 gallons of old Clarion A7 at DWTP.
5. Rebuilt sump pump at the Bell Canyon PRV.
6. Serviced 59 valves.

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Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he noted that Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) had challenges in meeting the District’s potable water demands during two warm weather events in the month of July.

Mr. Perea reported that the District currently contracts with a cross-connection specialist to ensure compliance with the newly adopted Cross-Connection Control Plan. Mr. Perea added that Mr. Monson, Lead Water System Operator, has completed the USC cross-connection specialist certification, and that the District plans to have an additional employee obtain their certification in the future to meet the new requirements.

Director Anderson requested an update on the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) interconnection discussion. Mr. Kessler reported that the connection only functions to send water to SMWD. Ms. Lausten reported that Hazen and Sawyer are working with IRWD and SMWD to redesign the interconnection to flow water in both directions.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 5: 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. Assisted in the replacement of the East Hoffman Blower.
2. Replaced Dove Lake Pump.
3. Plano Lift Station wet well cleaning and inspection.
4. Quarterly cleaning of hot spots with vector truck.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that the reservoir was at 1,258 feet and Dove Lake had 4 feet of freeboard. Mr. Ulloa also reported that TY Nursery is approaching their annual maximum allocation of recycled water, and that Dove & Tick Creek Dry Season recovery has started production.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 6: 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. Attended job walk at DWTP for Filter #4 seismic brackets.

Wastewater Operations

1. Emergency repairs needed for failed blower at WWTP. Vaughan Industrial called out for immediate repairs.
2. Dove Lake motor replacement.
3. Reclaim Water Filter tour at Tustin Golf Course, potential new filters for Dove Recycle booster station.

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District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Repairs on truck #8, AC service new steering wheel, LOF and all new shocks with Elite Services.
2. Repairs on truck #7, AC service and LOF and recall checks with Ford Fleet Center.
3. LOF on truck #16 and #29.
4. Complete BIT inspections.
5. Began fire extinguisher inspections/repair.
6. OBD smog check on Crane truck.
7. OVI smog check on Slide Rail, and inspection.
8. Emergency gen and ATS testing.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

No other matters were reported.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the August 6, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:20 a.m.