



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | NOVEMBER 5, 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
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant
Phil Serpas, CMMS/SCADA Administrator

STAFF ABSENT

None

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of the public present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Anderson called the November 5, 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: HERITAGE SEWER LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that staff solicited bids from five contractors and received two bids. Ms. Lausten provided a bid proposal comparison handout to the Committee and reviewed the cost analysis. Ms. Lausten reported that she is recommending award of the construction contract to Ferreira Construction.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend that the Board of Directors award a Construction Contract for the Heritage Sewer Lift Station Improvement Project to Ferreira Construction in the amount of \$1,799,813 plus a 10% contingency of \$179,981, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,979,794 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 3: HAMILTON OAKS COMMUNITY SYSTEM PRESSURES TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM - HAZEN

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration. Mr. Perea reported that District staff requested a technical memorandum and conceptual estimate from Hazen for potential system pressure improvements within the Hamilton Oaks community due to feedback from District customers. Mr. Perea reported that the memorandum addressed a conceptual solution to improve the minimum pressures to homes and fire flow demands to the community. Mr. Perea provided a high-level overview of the memorandum including pressure criteria for the distribution system, proposed pump station components and the cost estimate summary.

Public Comment was received in relation to this item on the agenda.

Sue Marucci – Ms. Marucci addressed the Committee with her concerns regarding the pressure issues within the Hamilton Oaks community. Ms. Marucci commented that her concern is not with pressures to her home, noting that many in the community have booster pumps. Ms. Marucci emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate hydrant pressure for safety reasons, and that she believes the District is responsible for providing sufficient fire flow.

Jay Gentile – Mr. Gentile addressed the Committee with his concerns regarding costs and funding of the potential project. Mr. Gentile stated that, as he understands Proposition 218, a project benefiting a specific area should not be funded by all ratepayers, but rather by the residents of the community that will directly benefit from it. Mr. Gentile urged the Committee to explore potential grant funding opportunities to help subsidize the potential project.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the potential for additional storage and on-site tanks within the community. Mr. Perea stated that he would discuss this matter with Hazen.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 3: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. Dimension Water Treatment Plant Pipeline Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Lausten reported that Phase 1A would be completed today and that Phase 1B would start the following day. Ms. Lausten presented the Committee with a Construction Report handout for the month of October and she provided a brief summary of the report. Ms. Lausten noted a delay in obtaining permits from the City of Mission Viejo but that that project is still moving forward.

2. Other Projects

None.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

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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. Worked with contractor to repair 2" broken service saddle in Falcon Estates.
2. Replaced pump motor on the valve truck.
3. Worked with the Meter Department to replace curb stop on Canyon Ridge in Portola Hills.
4. Recoated piping and equipment at Rose Canyon PS, Robinson Ranch PS and Harris Grade Reservoir.
5. Rebuilt pilot system on the Altitude Valve at Harris Grade.
6. Worked with OC Public Works to locate 2 main breaks on 6" transmission line at Joplin.
7. Coated L Brackets that were installed to secure filter #4.
8. Continued to work with T.E. Roberts on MTL repair.

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he noted that the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) Treated Interconnection amount of 21.3 acre-feet reflected in the report may be inaccurate due to meter issues experienced by SMWD. Mr. Kessler added that the amount may be adjusted if a correction is needed.

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. Replaced a motor for the NEQ pump at the WWTP.
2. Installed an emergency alarm system for sewer flows at Heritage Lift Station.
3. Dove Creek soils removal to comply with Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requirements.
4. Removed an equipment pad and repaired an airline for operations control at the WWTP.
5. Removed 80' of discontinued 6" waste line at WWTP.
6. Installed a new 8" diversion and valve to prep for a new NEQ pump install.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he noted that reservoir level was at 1252 feet and that Dove Lake had 7.6 feet of freeboard. Mr. Ulloa reported that total rainfall was 1 inch and that Dove/Tick Dry Season production was 3.2 acre feet.

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. Saddle Crest generator PM's, prep for emergency standby.

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Wastewater Operations

1. Received new Sutorbilt blower for WWTP.
2. SBR dry pit piping cleanup/removal with Waste Ops.
3. Assist Waste Ops on surge tank removal.

District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Prep truck #14 for 200-gallon water tank system.
2. Order new 20' storage container.
3. Gen and ATS checks.
4. Replace Vactor hos reel and guide brackets.
5. OBD II clean air inspection on F650 Dump Truck #27.
6. Replace broken park brake lever on truck #26.
7. Ford recall repairs on #7 and #19.
8. Prep all new small portable gas generators.
9. Rebuilt carb on MULE.

Mr. Perea noted that in relation to item 8, staff will update the list of generators, and he explained the importance of maintaining generators to keep the SCADA system operational during power outages.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

No other matters were reported.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the November 5, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:46 a.m.