



TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | DECEMBER 10, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mark Anderson, Committee Chair
Glenn Acosta, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Michael Perea, Interim General Manager
Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer
Gary Kessler, Water Superintendent
Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Superintendent
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent
Dave Rodriguez, Principal Engineer
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant
Phil Serpas, CMMS/SCADA Administrator

STAFF ABSENT

None

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

Justin Roberts, T.E. Roberts
Tori Yokoyama, Hazen and Sawyer

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Anderson called the December 10, 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 INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Perea reported on the following matters:

- Mr. Perea introduced Mr. Dave Rodriguez as the District's new full-time Principal Engineer and noted that Mr. Rodriguez was in attendance to answer any questions related to ongoing projects.

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- The District’s Chat with TCWD Community Forum will be held the following evening at 6:30 p.m. with Directors Acosta and Horst.

ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

Mr. Perea 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: SADDLE CREST RESERVOIR OUTLET IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Perea presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the ongoing challenges associated with the existing inlet/outlet pipeline design, and she stated that the project’s objective is to install a dedicated outlet pipeline to promote flow out of the Saddle Crest Tank, allowing the tank level to fluctuate and trend with the level in the Harris Grade tanks under all supply and demand conditions. Ms. Lausten presented a bid comparison summary, and she stated that staff recommends awarding a construction contract to JA Salazar Construction & Supply Corp.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the Interim General Manager to award a Construction contract for the Saddle Crest Reservoir Outlet Improvement Project to JA Salazar Construction & Supply Corp. in the amount of \$172,720 plus a 10% contingency of \$17,272, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$189,992 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 3: ROBINSON RANCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BLOWER ROOM MOTOR CONTROL CENTER (MCC) IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 1 & PHASE 2 EMERGENCY WORK

Mr. Perea presented this matter for Committee consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that staff and engineering consultants identified critical electrical issues within the Motor Control Center (MCC) that that require immediate attention. Mr. Ulloa presented photos of the existing electrical equipment, and he noted that the overall project scope remains unchanged, but that the order of project tasks is being adjusted.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the Interim General Manager to award a construction contract for the WWTP Blower Room MCC Improvements to Hydrotech Electric in the amount of \$362,993.56 plus a 10% contingency of \$36,299.00 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$399,292.56 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 4: TCWD’S PARTICIPATION IN THE MWDOC CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

Mr. Perea presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that effective January 1, 2025, the Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulatory requirements and compliance reporting went into effect. Mr. Perea stated the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) has contracted with Environmental Incentives with funding assistance from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to develop a technical assistance program (TAP) to help member agencies to meet these requirements. Mr. Perea also reported that as a MWDOC member agency, the District has contracted with Environmental Incentives to assist with compliance targets and framework requirements. Mr. Perea noted that the previous General Manager and staff have been working toward compliance with these new legislative requirements.

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The Committee requested additional information regarding any potential penalties for non-compliance. Mr. Perea stated that fees are typically assessed for noncompliance, and that he would report back to the Committee with more specific information.

RECOMMENDATION: None. Informational item only.

ITEM 5: DOVE/TICK CREEK PUMP STATION DESIGN UPDATE

Mr. Perea presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that the District has been approved for approximately \$1 million in grant funding for this project through US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the South Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Area (IRWM). Ms. Lausten reported that the proposed design costs for the project are higher than anticipated due to the cost of identified environmental compliance requirements, and she requested guidance from the Committee on how to proceed. Ms. Lausten also reported that staff is not ready to move forward on the project at this time, however the matter is time sensitive due to the two-year deadline for use of grant funding. Ms. Lausten stated that staff is working to negotiate lower fees, and discussion occurred regarding the causes of the elevated costs. Discussion also occurred regarding the potential impact of recent environmental regulatory changes to the project.

RECOMMENDATION: None. Informational item only.

ITEM 6: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

1. Dimension Water Treatment Plant Pipeline Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Lausten reported that Phase 1A was complete, including testing at the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) and that Phase 1B was in progress. Ms. Lausten presented the November Construction Report, and she provided a brief summary. Ms. Lausten reported that staff has evaluated a potential strategy to start a portion of Phase 2 of the project in order to reduce overall project costs and maintain momentum. Mr. Justin Roberts, with T.E. Roberts noted the potential challenges and additional costs of demobilizing and returning the equipment back to the east coast upon completion of Phase 1B, and then remobilizing in winter 2026.

The Committee requested that this matter be brought to the full Board for consideration. Mr. Perea stated that this matter will be agendaized for committee consideration at the January meeting with additional information and associated costs/savings.

2. System Wide Water Pipeline Condition Assessment

Ms. Lausten reported that staff is beginning an analysis of all assets and pipelines to project a 50-year budget. Discussion occurred regarding budgeting for future pipeline replacement projects.

3. Other Projects

Ms. Lausten provided a brief update on Plano Sewer Lift Station Bypass Improvements that were approved by the Interim General Manager. Mr. Perea added that this small project was a critical improvement to improve the bypassing of wastewater at the interconnection with SMWD and to protect TCWD equipment at the sewer lift station.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

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ITEM 7: 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. Removed 16" valve on filter 4 at DWTP in preparation to repair 20" Victaulic Coupling on effluent side.
2. Worked with Meter Tech to replace 1" curb stop on Mill Stream.
3. Worked to replace two 2" service saddles in Falcon Estates.
4. Continued to work closely with contractors on Main Transmission Line Repair.

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he provided additional information regarding the condition of the curb stops in Falcon Estates. Discussion occurred regarding the proactive identification of any issues and addressing any needed repairs.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 8: 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. Repaired two recycled water leaks on the 3" line at the WWTP.
2. Repaired a 2" potable water leak at the WWTP.
3. Complete washdown of the Belt Press at the WWTP.
4. Removed a 10' tank and equipment pad that were no longer in service.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that reservoir level was at 1260 feet and that Dove Lake had 3 feet of freeboard. Mr. Ulloa also reported that that Dove/Tick Dry Season production was 2.3 acre-feet.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 9: 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. Installed new air vent line on Saddle Crest emergency diesel fuel tank. Repaired damaged level/alarm indicators.
2. Job walk at Saddle Crest for new pipeline.

Wastewater Operations

1. Placed new 20' storage bin at WWTP. Loaded up with spare equipment.
2. La Habra Fence working at Barneburg LS replacing swing gate.
3. Job walk at WWTP blower room.

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District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Remodeled lunchroom to have direct bathroom access.
2. Working with OC Commercial Doors to repair damaged doors and upgrade with panic push bars.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

Mr. Perea updated the Committee in relation to non-compliance for the Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework, penalties range from \$500 to \$10,000 per day depending on Statewide drought status. The Committee expressed appreciation for the additional information and recognized the importance of the District's participation in the Conservation Framework TAP.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the December 10, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:46 a.m.