



**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | JANUARY 7, 2026**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mark Anderson, Committee Chair
Glenn Acosta, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Larry McKenney, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant 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

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Anderson called the January 7, 2026 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

Director Acosta commented that the Labor Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee was working with general counsel to expedite the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the goal of completing it this month.

Director Anderson commented that the MOU was 80% complete.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. McKenney reported that he toured the pipeline rehabilitation project and thanked staff for their time.

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ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

Mr. McKenney 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: DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT PIPELINE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Ms. Lausten presented this matter for Committee consideration, and she reported that Phase 1B of the project was expected to be completed the following week, while the open-cut portion was scheduled for completion by mid-February. Ms. Lausten also reported that since Phase 1 progressed faster than anticipated and was currently under budget, she recommended a change order to advance Phase 2A of the project ahead of the original schedule. Mr. Perea added that staff identified potential savings by completing Phase 2A now while the equipment is on-site and the contractor's prices hold firm.

Director Anderson expressed his concerns concerning potential vulnerabilities in the lower portion of the pipeline compared to the upper portion in Phase 2, and he stressed the need for a contingency plan in the event of a failure. Director Anderson also expressed his concerns regarding the expenditure, given the District's current financial position. Mr. Perea stated that staff will revisit the projected cost savings.

Director Acosta expressed his support for completing Phase 2A at this time, stating that the pipeline is critical and that a potential consolidation should not be a determining factor. Director Acosta emphasized that the upper section presents a critical opportunity for cost savings that will help in offsetting costs once the District moves forward with the lower section. Director Acosta also asked that staff explore all options to fast track Phase 2 of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve a contract change order for the DWTP Transmission Main Pipeline Rehabilitation Project – Phase 2A to TE Roberts in the Not-to-exceed amount of \$915,998 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 3: DOVE & TICK CREEK PUMP STATIONS UPDATE – DESIGN & ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ms. Lausten presented this matter for Committee consideration, and she reported that the project would upgrade both pump stations and expand runoff capture. Ms. Lausten provided a brief overview of the recycled/reclaimed water system and explained that the current maintenance issues at the pump stations prevent the District from taking advantage of storm flows. Ms. Lausten reported that staff solicited bids and received two proposals. Ms. Lausten presented a proposal evaluation summary, and she stated that staff recommends awarding a professional services agreement to AKM Consulting Engineering.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to award a professional services contract for the Dove and Tick Creek Station Improvements to AKM Consulting Engineering in the amount of \$511,412 plus a 10% contingency of \$51,141, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$562,553 (Action Calendar).

ITEM 4: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

No other projects were presented to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: None

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ITEM 5: 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 leaking fire hydrant on Huntknoll Drive in the Trabuco Highlands community.
2. Recoated and painted the pumps and pipes at Rose Canyon Booster Pump Station.
3. Assisted Customer Service Field Technician with residential curb stop replacement on El Toro Road.
4. Continued to work with contractors on the DWTP Transmission Line Rehabilitation Project.

Ms. Lausten noted that the Saddle Crest pipeline improvements project would be starting the following month.

Director Acosta requested that the hydrant pressures in the Hamilton Oaks community be agendized for discussion the following month. Mr. Perea noted that staff worked with Hazen based on feedback from the Committee and that an update would be provided to the Committee next month.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 6: 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 the 2” Cla-Val at Portola Basin intertie.
2. Replaced the Sutorbilt blower at the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).
3. Repaired a leaking 6” airline at the WWTP.
4. Built a new airline to be installed in the East SBR tank at the WWTP.
5. Quarterly wet well cleaning completed at sewer lift stations.
6. Quarterly F.O.G. (Fats, Oil, and Grease) source control inspections at commercial accounts completed.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that reservoir level was at 1267 feet and Dove Lake was full. Mr. Ulloa also reported that Dove/Tick Dry Season Recovery was offline.

Discussion occurred concerning the Dove Canyon Golf Club F.O.G. cleaning process and frequency.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 7: 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. Performed load banking on the emergency backup generator at the Saddle Crest Booster Pump Station.
2. Serviced Water Department vehicles.

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Wastewater Operations

1. Repaired an air release valve on the compressor at El Toro Sewer Lift Station.
2. Cleared a new area and graded the hillside at the WWTP for future Vactor truck parking.
3. Re-graded and maintained fire roads at WWTP due to rain events.

District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects

1. Assisted in Arc Flash job walk with P2S and Hydrotech Electric at various District facilities.
2. Completed Onboard Diagnostic (OBD) compliance test on the Vactor Truck.
3. Completed BIT Inspection on Class A fleet vehicles.
4. Completed smog test on all District vehicles.
5. Performed ATS transfer checks on all emergency backup generators.

A brief discussion occurred regarding communication with Southern California Edison (SCE) related to isolation switches at the District's facilities.

Director Anderson requested that staff add long-term projects to the overall CIP list. Mr. Perea stated that a meeting has been set up for the following week with the District's consultants and that a monthly recurring meeting at the staff level has been scheduled to receive regular updates on projects.

RECOMMENDATION: None – Informational item only.

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

No other matters were reported.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Director Anderson adjourned the January 7, 2026 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:46 a.m.