

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP
JANUARY 6, 2016**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Edward Mandich, Committee Chair
Stephen Dopudja, Committee Member

STAFF PRESENT

Hector Ruiz, General Manager
Michael Perea, District Secretary
Lorrie Lausten, Engineer
Kris Hanberg, Wastewater Department Chief Plant Operator
Gary Kessler, Water Department Chief Plant Operator
Lisa Carmouche, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of the public present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Director Mandich called the January 6, 2016, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

No comments were received.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

No comments were received.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Dopudja expressed his appreciation for District staff work and efforts during the December 16, 2015, Public Hearing for the adoption of the Water, Wastewater, and Recycled Water rates and Meter flat rates, and commented on the recent Orange County Register article that highlighted the Public Hearing.

Director Mandich echoed Director Dopudja's comment, and wished a Happy New Year to everyone in attendance.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Ruiz had no matters to report.

ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

The December 2, 2015, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap was presented to the Committee. The Committee members were not present at the December 2, 2015 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting, and had no comment.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Mr. Perea, District Secretary approved the meeting recap and recommended that the Board receive and file the December 2, 2015, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap (Consent Calendar).

ITEM 2: ALTERNATE RAW WATER TRANSMISSION LINE - PW79

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and mentioned that Tetra Tech (Consultant) was currently completing the Final Project Design. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the required property appraisals are close to completion, and commented on the necessity of an underground subterranean easement with above ground access. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff have met with Integra Realty Resources (Appraiser) to review the grant of easement requests, and that the next step in the process is to meet with the property owners. Discussion occurred concerning the timeline for completion of the appraisal process. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that District staff and its Right of Way Consultant will bring the finalized and accepted appraisals to the Board for review prior to meeting with the property owners. Mr. Ruiz explained that the costs associated with the appraisals are not reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Ruiz commented that FEMA is currently reviewing the environmental documentation for the project. Discussion occurred concerning the legal description and dimensions of the easement for the pipeline and possible impacts and concerns.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

ITEM 3: BAKER WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and presented the Baker Water Treatment Plant Construction Report (Report) for December 2015 for Committee review. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the Project Committee (PC) Meeting was scheduled to meet on January 14th. Mr. Ruiz highlighted project-related variances and proposed contract change orders as described in the Report, and reviewed the internal approval process. Mr. Ruiz reviewed the approval process steps, which included that the Project Committee has first approval variances and contract change orders, then Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) Engineering and Operations Committee, then IRWD's Board of Directors, and finally, IRWD notifies each of the member agencies of the approved variances and/or contract change orders. Discussion occurred concerning project schedule and timeline for completion; Mr. Ruiz mentioned that there is a current three month delay for the project, and that the contractor is currently working on Saturdays to make up its rain delays.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

ITEM 4: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION(S) RELATING TO TCWD'S DOMESTIC WATER STORAGE AND RESEVOIR SITING STUDY

Mr. Ruiz presented this new item for Committee review, and presented a handout (Figure 1-1) prepared by PSOMAS (Consultant) which demonstrated potential reservoir sites in the District's service area. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the Consultant is preparing a draft Reservoir Siting Report, and that the construction of a new reservoir will be funded by the Water Reliability Emergency Storage Fund (WRESF). Discussion occurred concerning the planned reservoir size. Mr. Ruiz reviewed the potential reservoir sites with the Committee, and mentioned that a final Report will likely be completed in February for Committee review. Discussion occurred concerning pre- and post-drought reservoir sizing design challenges.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

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ITEM 5: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECTS

1. Recycled Water Conversion Project Opportunities

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update for this project, and mentioned that District staff plan to extend the existing six-inch recycled water pipeline through the end of Plano Trabuco Road to the TY Nursery property line for recycled water usage for irrigation purposes. Mr. Ruiz provided cost proposals from GCI Construction, Inc. and L&S Construction, Inc. for the project. Discussion occurred concerning opportunities for expanding the District's recycled water system and grant funding for recycled water projects; Mr. Ruiz highlighted the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) OnSite Retrofit Pilot Program which funds construction of recycled water system improvements within a private property, but requires that the owner is the applicant and recipient of the funds. Discussion occurred concerning project costs, including water meter and asphalt repair.

2. Urban Water Management Plan

Ms. Lausten provided a status update for this project, and mentioned that District staff will receive a draft Plan later this month. Ms. Lausten added that District staff is currently working with the Consultant to complete specific items, and has completed training for American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Audit Standards.

3. Orange County Water System Gap Analysis

Mr. Ruiz presented this new item for Committee review, and mentioned that Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) has been collaborating with member agencies to complete a countywide Water Reliability Study. Mr. Ruiz reviewed a MWDOC powerpoint presentation that focused on emergency water system reliability, and highlighted the model major assumptions and emergency scenarios without the availability to receive treated water from MET. Mr. Ruiz reviewed the impacts of the multiple requirements placed on water demands, and the possible impacts of earthquakes on groundwater supplies in the county. Mr. Ruiz reviewed the severe drought impacts on the Southern Orange County Groundwater Basins, which includes the District's supplies. Mr. Ruiz presented the MWDOC Draft Orange County System Gap Analysis Worksheet for Committee review, and highlighted the possible impact to the District's supplies with no MET water, nor electrical power.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update(s), and to bring forward the Plano Trabuco Recycled Water Pipeline Extension Project to the Board for review and action (Action Calendar).

ITEM 6: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION(S) CONCERNING THE PLANO TRABUCO DEVELOPMENT, WILLIAM LYON HOMES, INC., CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA (36 UNIT TRIPLEX BUILDING DESIGN)

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this matter to the Committee, and mentioned that the Developer is currently seeking a grading permit from the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Mr. Ruiz added that the Developer has paid the required fees to the District for water, wastewater, and recycled water services, but has experienced challenges with acquiring an easement related to access to the District's sanitary sewer system and the Developer is interested in the possibility of using the eminent domain process. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that a Developer Representative attended the prior Engineering/ Operational Committee, and explained that the District would be the lead agency for the eminent domain of the future easement with all costs paid by the Developer. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff has met with Special Legal Counsel to review the eminent domain specific to this development.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

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ITEM 7: SKYRIDGE DEVELOPMENT (84 DUs)

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this development. Ms. Lausten added that she has been working with DMc Engineering (Consultant) on the construction inspection services, and mentioned that the first onsite sewer portion of the development has been completed. Ms. Lausten added that the Developer is waiting for the necessary permits from the City of Mission Viejo. Mr. Ruiz commented that District staff has been working Legal Counsel to prepare the agreement with Santa Margarita Water District for potable and recycled water services for the development, and recently submitted a draft agreement for their review and comment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

ITEM 8: SADDLE CREST DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this development, and presented the Sub-Area Master Plan (SAMP) [Exhibit] prepared by PSOMAS to the Committee for review. Discussion occurred concerning the construction of booster pump station for the development to meet the development's water demands. Ms. Lausten provided handouts to the Committee of the proposed reservoir designs by size, and reviewed the tank construction costs provided by Rutter Development (Developer). Discussion occurred concerning a cost analysis between both steel and concrete reservoir designs, as well as, shared construction costs between the Developer and the District. Mr. Ruiz reviewed SAMP Figure 2-2 and reviewed the planned water distribution system, and the impacts of the Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) on potable water demands for the development. The Committee discussed their concerns regarding the future homeowners and their compliance with meeting the MWELo and the District's ability to enforce the MWELo requirements. Mr. Ruiz commented that the County of Orange is responsible for enforcing the MWELo, but that a homeowner can change things after the sale of the home. The Committee requested that PSOMAS re-evaluate the water demands to account for future changes and potential non-adherence to the MWELo by homeowners. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that he will work with Psomas to revise the SAMP and bring forward revised information for the final version of the SAMP to the January 20, 2016, Regular Board Meeting. Discussion occurred concerning the design and construction of the reservoir retaining wall, if necessary.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, and to revise and update the SAMP to the Board for review and action (Action Calendar).

ITEM 9: ACTIVE DEVELOPMENTS

1. Summerfield Homes, County of Orange – Tract 15800 (5 DUs | WSL)

Ms. Lausten provided a status update on this development, and mentioned that there is currently one homeowner at the development with the account in the Developer's name.

2. Oaks at Trabuco, County of Orange (9 DUs | WSL)

Ms. Lausten commented that there was no update at this time.

3. Other Active Developments

Ms. Lausten commented that there were no other active developments for discussion.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

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ITEM 10: WATER SYSTEM STATUS

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Status Update through December, 2015, and reported on the following matters:

1. Water Department staff repaired a 1" service line on Snowdon in the Dove Canyon Community.
2. Water Department staff prepared for and received the annual inspection from the State Water Resources Control Board.
3. Water Department staff along with contractor Doty Brothers repaired an 8" line on Rose Canyon Road on December 28, 2015.
4. Water Department staff repaired an 8" shut-off valve on Range View Drive on December 30, 2015.

Mr. Kessler provided an updated Monthly Water System Operations Summary report for December, 2015, for Committee review, and provided additional information for calendar year 2013 for comparison purposes. Discussion occurred concerning the current conservation efforts of District customers; Mr. Kessler mentioned that the District's customers have reduced their use by approximately 16% for the month of December 2015 in comparison with December 2013.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

ITEM 11: WASTEWATER SYSTEM STATUS

Mr. Hanberg presented the Wastewater System Status Update through December, 2015, and reported on the following matters:

1. Wastewater Department staff installed new piping in the wet well at Bell Canyon Sewer Lift Station.
2. Wastewater Department staff potholed to locate a water line adjacent to Plano Trabuco Road in order to prepare for the installation of the planned recycled water line for TY Nursery.
3. Wastewater Department staff helped the Maintenance Department remove a 2cfs pump at the Ridgeline Booster Pump Station for repair.

Mr. Hanberg provided an updated Monthly Recycled Water System Operations Summary for December, 2015, for Committee review, and reviewed the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) Fourth Quarter Report. Mr. Hanberg mentioned that due to the recent rain events that the level in Dove Lake increased approximately two feet.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS

Mr. Ruiz reported the District is currently looking to hire a new Wastewater Treatment Operator in Training to backfill an existing employee vacancy due to interdepartmental transitions.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Mandich adjourned the January 6, 2016, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:45 AM.