

## **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 Superintendent
Gary Kessler, Water Department Chief Plant Operator
Jason Stroud, Lead Mechanical Technologist

#### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

Mr. Jay Rutter, Saddle Crest Developer

#### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Director Mandich called the October 5, 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 had no comments.

Director Mandich commented on his attendance at the 2016 South Orange County Water Expo. Director Mandich reported on some of the information shared in the presentation by Mr. Alex Tardy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the estimated rainfall for 2016/2017, as well as, the joint presentation by the City of Mission Viejo and Santa Margarita Water District on the Lake Mission Viejo Recycled Water Conversion Project.

## **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Ruiz reported on the following matters:

- The District has filled the open employment position in the Water Operations Department with a Treatment II/Distribution II Operator.
- Mr. Ruiz requested moving Agenda Item No. 5 after Item No. 1 on the agenda.

## ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP

The September 7, 2016, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap was presented to the Committee.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee approved the Meeting Recap and recommended that the Board receive and file the September 7, 2016, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap (Consent Calendar).

#### ITEM 5: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION(S) CONCERNING SADDLE CREST DEVELOPMENT (65 DUs)

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this development, and mentioned that he is requesting feedback from the Committee concerning this matter. Mr. Ruiz introduced Mr. Rutter to the Committee, and reminded the Committee that the Sub-Area Master Plan (SAMP) for this development was completed and approved in January 2016. Mr. Ruiz provided a DRAFT preliminary Will Serve Letter (WSL) for Committee review, and highlighted certain requirements that have not been met to date which are essential to the provision of water and sewer services to the Development, including the following:

- Water Capacity Charges and Fees for the 65 Dwelling Units and up to 262 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs).
- Onsite potable water reservoir storage capacity requirements and the necessity of an onsite booster pump station to meet planned water demands.
- Construction water needs and the impact of possible State Water Board mandatory conservation measures and restrictions, if implemented.
- Other development related requirements, including shared costs for the construction of the onsite potable water reservoir and upgrades to the existing Ridgeline Booster Pump Station.

Discussion occurred concerning non-standard language that is specific to the development which will provide options for the developer. Director Dopudja asked Mr. Ruiz to clarify the shared cost language in the WSL to reflect the percentage shares, and stressed the importance of clarified language that clearly states responsibilities of the developer and the District concerning the construction of the onsite potable water reservoir in order to meet expectations and avoid potential future legal challenges. Mr. Rutter addressed the Committee, and said that a clear definition of responsibilities concerning the upgrades to the District's Ridgeline Booster Pump Station needs to be included in order to be fair to both parties. Discussion occurred concerning the preliminary proposed costs for the planned upgrades to the District's Ridgeline Booster Pump Station. Director Dopudja commented that he was comfortable with the concepts in the WSL, and recommended that Mr. Ruiz work with District General Legal Counsel to finalize the language in the WSL prior to its presentation to the Board. Director Mandich said that he would recuse himself from action concerning this matter due to a conflict of interest with his employer.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update and recommended that the matter be forwarded to the Board for review (Action Calendar).

#### ITEM 2: ALTERNATE RAW WATER TRANSMISSION LINE - PW79

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and said that the County of Orange approved the final public easement at the September 27, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff will have the Grant of Easement recorded with the County of Orange Recorder upon receipt. Mr. Ruiz presented an updated schedule of events for Committee review, and highlighted the required public bid notice period, and mentioned that District staff will advertise the public bid in the Orange County Register, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Lists, and on the District's website. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff plan to hold two pre-bid

meetings with bidding firms, approximately one week apart. Director Mandich asked if the project will consist of separate bids for construction and construction management; Mr. Ruiz affirmed that District staff plan to bid the project as such. Mr. Ruiz added that the original construction management bid has been updated to reflect regulatory compliance feedback from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and said that District staff is currently working with General Legal Counsel to assist District staff with updating the front end documents and incorporate FEMA's requirements. Discussion occurred concerning FEMA construction requirements and construction management challenges and risks. Director Mandich asked Mr. Ruiz to review FEMA bid requirements; Mr. Ruiz mentioned that FEMA requires that the District advertise the project on an open public forum, and that the request for proposal language has certain requirements in order to retain FEMA funding. Mr. Ruiz highlighted the project bid period, mentioning that the bid award is scheduled for the December 21, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

#### **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 reminded the Committee that Irvine Ranch Water District has scheduled a Project Celebration event for October 25, 2016. Mr. Ruiz briefly reviewed the Construction Report for September 2016 with the Committee. Mr. Ruiz provided an update concerning the matter of the proposed billing process which includes the option of (1) water sales based on percentage of capacity share by agency or (2) direct agreements for the sale of water with other water agencies. Director Dopudja expressed concern regarding the proposed billing processes due to the absence of recognizing the new source of water and it's potential value to other south Orange County agencies. Discussion occurred concerning the challenges with determining the market value of the District's portion of the product water and opportunities for selling water to other interested south county agencies. Director Dopudja recommended that a Special Board Meeting be scheduled for Board review of the proposed billing processes in detail, and to provide guidance to the General Manager for selling excess water.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update, and recommended the scheduling of a Special Board Meeting to discuss the matter.

#### **ITEM 4: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECTS**

- 1. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Phase 1
- Mr. Ruiz reported that District staff met with TESCO to review the project scope of work, and conducted the first project workshop.
- 2. Plano Sewage Lift Station and Plano Water Booster Pump Station Facility Site Security Improvements Mr. Ruiz reported that District staff has met with the developer concerning the project, and mentioned that the project will likely be completed within the next couple of months.
- 3. Other Projects

Mr. Ruiz reported that there were no other projects for discussion.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

# ITEM 6: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION(S) CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DRAFT CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR THE EXISTING TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT RIDGELINE BOOSTER PUMP STATION BY CALIFORNIA QUARTET

Mr. Ruiz presented this matter for Committee review, and mentioned that this matter is related to the District's Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project for upgrading the Ridgeline Booster Pump Station to serve the emergency storage requirements at the proposed Saddle Crest Reservoir and the Saddle Crest development. Mr. Ruiz said that California Quartet, LP, currently holds the 2007 draft designs prepared by Hunsaker and Associates for the Ridgeline Booster Pump Station upgrades related to the Saddleback Meadows development. Mr. Ruiz commented that District staff would like to request copies of the draft design at no cost to the District as a starting point for the planned facility upgrades at the Ridgeline Booster Pump Station. Director Mandich recommended that General Legal Counsel review the request letter prior to execution in regards to inclusion or exclusion of future developments.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update, and recommended that the matter be forwarded to the Board (Action Calendar).

#### **ITEM 7: ACTIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

1. Dahlia Court Development (36 DUs | WSL)

Ms. Lausten provided a status update on this development, and commented that the development has completed the connection to the District's sanitary sewer and potable water systems. Ms. Lausten added that the developer is currently performing compaction testing.

2. Skyridge Development (84 DUs | WSL)

Ms. Lausten provided a status update on this development, and mentioned that the developer is currently installing water meters and meter boxes on select parcels by phase. Ms. Lausten added that the developer has completed the potable water system loop for the development.

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

Ms. Lausten provided a status update on this development, and reported that the developer has completed the punch list of outstanding items. Mr. Ruiz added that this development will be removed from the Active Development list for future discussions with the Committee.

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

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this development, and said that District staff has met with the developer and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) to review the possibility of reclassifying the treatment facility effluent from tertiary to secondary treated recycled water in accordance with Title 22 requirements. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff also plans to meet and coordinate with the Division of Drinking Water for the reclassification of the facility.

5. Other Active Developments

None

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

#### **ITEM 8: WATER SYSTEM STATUS**

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Status Update through September, 2016, and reported on the following matters:

- 1. Water Department staff repaired a cracked three-inch water pipeline at O'Neill Park.
- 2. Water Department staff replaced a leaking dry barrel fire hydrant with a wet barrel fire hydrant at Trabuco Canyon Elementary School.
- 3. Water Department staff isolated the potable water pipeline at the Dahlia Court development to complete the water service connection.
- 4. Water Department staff completed preventative maintenance on the pressure reducing valves at the District's Field Office.

Mr. Kessler provided an updated Monthly Water System Operations Summary report for September, 2016, for Committee review. Discussion occurred concerning the current conservation efforts of District customers; Mr. Kessler commented that the District's customers demand reduced by 18% in month of September, 2016, in comparison to the same month in 2013. Mr. Kessler added that the Water Operations Department provided approximately thirty-five acre feet of potable water to supplement the Recycled Water Reservoir at the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

#### **ITEM 9: WASTEWATER SYSTEM STATUS**

Mr. Hanberg presented the Wastewater System Status update through September, 2016, and reported on the following matters:

- 1. Wastewater Department staff repaired a six-inch HDPE pipeline at the Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility.
- 2. Wastewater Department staff replaced a six-inch check valve at the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Equalization Basin discharge pipeline.
- 3. Wastewater Department staff completed weed abatement at the Robinson Ranch Reclaimed Reservoir Dam Face.
- 4. Wastewater Department staff replaced the WWTP West Sequencing Batch Reactor Hoffman Blower.

Mr. Hanberg provided an updated Monthly Recycled Water System Operations Summary for September, 2016, for Committee review, and reported that the Dove Lake freeboard is currently at 13.4 feet. Mr. Hanberg reviewed the additional recycled water demands for the Dove Canyon Golf Course, Sakaida Nursery, and T-Y Nursery in the Operations Summary, and mentioned that he will continue to pump Dove Lake water and add potable water to supplement the recycled water reservoir to help the District to meet recycled water demands through the summer months. Discussion occurred concerning the Dove Canyon Golf Course; Mr. Ruiz commented that the golf course is under new ownership.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the status update, no action taken.

## **ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS**

Mr. Ruiz introduced Mr. Stroud to the Committee, and said that he has performed extensive research for the purchase of a replacement crane truck vehicle for District Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Stroud provided a handout concerning the proposed crane truck vehicle, and mentioned that Maintenance staff has visited the City of San Diego to discuss with their staff the benefits of a similar vehicle at the municipality. Mr. Stroud added that the purchase price of the proposed crane truck vehicle is approximately \$162,000, and is approved in the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Capital Improvement Program. Discussion occurred concerning the possible addition of an electrical powerline alarm system; Mr. Stroud replied that he will investigate the additional alarm system.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Committee received the information, no action taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Mandich adjourned the October 5, 2016, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 9:03 AM.