



## **TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP | AUGUST 2, 2023**

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### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Mike Safranski, Committee Chair  
Stephen Dopudja, Committee Member

### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

### **PUBLIC PRESENT**

None

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Director Safranski called the August 2, 2023 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

### **VISITOR PARTICIPATION**

No comments were received.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATION**

No comments were received.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None were received.

### **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

None were received.

### **ITEM 1: ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP**

Mr. Perea presented the Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap for Committee review in accordance with the agenda.

**MOTION:** Approve the Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap and recommended that the Board receive and file the same (Consent Calendar) – Director Dopudja

**SECOND:** Director Safranski

**AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

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**ITEM 2: HERITAGE SEWER LIFT STATION DRY PIT IMPROVEMENTS**

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Ms. Lausten presented this matter for Committee consideration and review, and she provided an overview of the project. Ms. Lausten reported that the District has received two bids after publicly bidding the project, and she presented a bid evaluation which compared the bids from Ferreira Construction and GCI Construction. Discussion occurred concerning bid cost differences, specifically the costs associated with the proposed temporary sewer bypass system. Ms. Lausten expressed her confidence in the bids, and she recommended awarding the project to Ferreira Construction.

- MOTION:** Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for Heritage Sewer Lift Station Dry Pit Improvements to Ferreira Construction in the not to exceed amount of \$173, 201, with 10% contingency of \$17,320, for a not to exceed amount of \$190,521 (Action Calendar) – Director Dopudja
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

**ITEM 3: EL TORO SEWER LIFT STATION SURGE TANK AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS**

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Mr. Paludi presented this project status update for Committee review, and he reported that this project has been completed and the station is online. Ms. Lausten provided an overview of the station upgrades and the associated challenges due to supply chain delays. Ms. Lausten reported that the District’s contractor has also completed the repair of the force main valve in El Toro Road before the start of a City of Lake Forest road improvement project

- MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 4: SCADA UPGRADE PROJECT ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO FY 2022/23 AGREEMENT WITH TESCO CONTROLS**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration and review, and he reported that this proposed addendum was missing in the original scope of work. Ms. Lausten reported that the Robinson Ranch panel upgrade was included in the project site work and network diagram but was missed due to site naming confusion. Ms. Lausten provided a review of the proposed addendum for the Committee, and she reported that the cost is approximately 20% higher than originally quoted. Discussion occurred concerning fiscal responsibility and the impacts of the change order. Director Dopudja asked how long staff has known of this oversight; Ms. Lausten reported that this matter has been known since January. Director Dopudja expressed his appreciation to staff for acknowledging the oversight, and he requested that staff work with TESCO Controls to negotiate for lower costs. Mr. Paludi provided background information on the recent sale of the company to a private equity firm and some of the associated project challenges.

- MOTION:** Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute Addendum No. 1 to FY 2022/23 Agreement with TESCO Controls, Inc. for Robinson Ranch Panel Upgrade to TESCO Controls, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$96,250 (Action Calendar) – Director Dopudja
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

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**ITEM 5: PROJECT PARTNERS CONTRACT FOR DISTRICT STAFF AUGMENTATION**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he commented that the adopted capital improvement project (CIP) budgets for the next five years are ambitious, and that staff needs assistance. Mr. Paludi reported that District staff has reached out to Project Partners (Consultant) for a cost-effective solution to augment staff to meet the needs of the CIP projects. Director Safranski asked if this proposed staff augmentation was included in the adopted budget; Mr. Paludi reported that the costs would be capitalized by the project. Director Dopudja supported the recommendation by acknowledging the reasonable hourly rate for the consultant.

- MOTION:** Recommend the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a contract for As-Needed Project Management Support to Project Partners in the not to exceed amount of \$162,000 (Action Calendar) – Director Dopudja
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

**ITEM 6: RATIFICATION OF THE PURCHASE OF FOUR NEW UTILITY TRUCK FLEET VEHICLES**

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Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he mentioned that District staff is responding to recently adopted regulatory requirements. Mr. Perea provided background information on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation adopted in April 2023 that will require local agencies to transition to zero emission vehicle fleets beginning in 2024 through 2027. Mr. Perea reported that the District budgeted for the purchase of two new vehicles in FY 2023/24, but is recommending the acceleration of the purchase of two additional vehicles budgeted for FY 2024/25 as a cost control measure. Director Dopudja mentioned that this matter was discussed at Executive Committee, and he expressed disappointment that the matter was not discussed further with the committee; Mr. Perea acknowledged that there was confusion in agendizing the matter for discussion. Discussion occurred regarding current battery technology challenges and investment strategies for zero emission vehicle fleet enhancement and associated charging infrastructure costs. Mr. Perea recommended the ratification of vehicle purchases.

- MOTION:** Recommend the Board of Directors ratify the purchase of four (4) new utility truck fleet vehicles from Tuttle Click Ford for a not to exceed amount of \$249,928.80 (Action Calendar) – Director Dopudja
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 2 – 0

**ITEM 7: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES**

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**1. Saddleback Meadows On-Site Improvements: RFP for Plan Check Services**

Mr. Paludi provided an update concerning the ongoing discussion with the developer concerning the proposed water storage needs and the preparation of a conditional will serve letter which would require the preparation of a cost-sharing agreement for the construction of a new water storage tank at Harris Grade as a condition of water service. The developer is requesting the acceleration of the project plan check requirements. Director Dopudja expressed concerns with performing the plan check without a conditional will serve letter, and he

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did not support a partial plan check. Ms. Lausten expressed her concerns with performing the plan check prior to the issuance of conditional will serve letter. The Committee recommended the completion of the conditional will serve letter for the developer.

**2. Dove Canyon Plaza Improvements and Agreement**

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Committee consideration, and he reported that District staff is working with the property owner on improvements for fire protection and renegotiating the existing reciprocal parking agreement. Mr. Paludi provided a brief update on progress efforts, and he mentioned this matter will be agendaized for discussion with the Executive Committee.

**3. Other Projects –**

Mr. Paludi reported that Dove Canyon Master Association (DCMA) has received proposals for the repair of the damaged v-ditch below the District’s Dove Reservoir. Discussion occurred concerning property ownership and responsibilities. Mr. Paludi added that DCMA plans to complete the work by November 2023, and that District staff will engage with the DCMA Property Manager on this matter.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 8: WATER SYSTEM UPDATES**

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Mr. Kessler reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior two months, and he reported that Water Operations staff has completed the following tasks:

1. Worked with Ferreira Construction to replace water service on Saratoga in Dove Canyon.
2. Repaired leaking water service on Pine St. In Trabuco Oaks area.
3. Repaired leaking water service on Shadow Rock in Robinson Ranch.
4. Repaired leaking water service on Sycamore in Trabuco Oaks area.
5. Replaced hydrant on Sycamore Canyon in Dove Canyon.
6. Worked extensively with developer and contractors at the Saddle Crest development.
7. Continued to work with TESCO Controls to finish upgrades at GWTF.

Mr. Kessler presented the Water System Summary for Committee review, and he provided updates on the GWTF production. Mr. Kessler provided an update concerning recent water quality issues with Irvine Lake water, and he reported that the District has utilized other agency interconnections to supplement groundwater production to meet system demands. Discussion occurred concerning potential remedies to the Irvine Lake water quality issues.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 9: WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPDATES**

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Mr. Ulloa reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior two months, and he reported that Wastewater Operations staff had completed the following tasks:

1. Assisted TESCO Controls with El Toro Lift Station Startup
2. Repaired 12” flow meter at El Toro Lift Station
3. Replace the aeration system in the W. SBR at the WWTP
4. Installed new drainpipe for SBR tanks at the WWTP
5. Replaced two blower motors at the WWTP
6. Assisted in the recoating of three manholes (two in Dove Canyon/ one in Rancho Cielo)
7. Completed Cla-Val maintenance for the recycled distribution system.

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8. Assisted in the repair of El Toro Lift Station 8" force main valve.
9. Coordinated and assisted with the bypass for Golf Club surge tank leak repair.

Mr. Ulloa presented the Recycled Water System Summary for Committee review, and he reported that Tick Creek/Dove Creek pump stations were online. Mr. Ulloa reported that Dove Lake freeboard was currently at three feet. Discussion occurred concerning the urban water recovery agreement with Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD).

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 10: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

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Mr. Stroud reviewed the projects and repairs for the prior two months, 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 a new wet well sump pump at the Trabuco Creek Groundwater Treatment Facility

**Wastewater Operations**

1. Worked with Vaughn Industries onsite at Robinson Ranch WWTP to align both SBR multi-vane blowers.
2. Assisted with the installation of a new mixer on West SBR.
3. Weed whacked and installed new inlet screens at Shadow-Rock Detention Basin Facility.
4. Worked with Ferreira Construction onsite at El Toro Sewer Lift Station force main to dig up and inspect 8" valve. Replaced broken sheer pin.
5. Assisted JPIA inspector from Asset Works at the Robinson Ranch WWTP.

**District Fleet Upgrades & Other Projects**

1. Purchased and received four new F250 4x4 service trucks.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS**

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Mr. Perea reported that District staff has engaged with the District's Southern California Edison (SCE) representative to perform an energy efficiency evaluation of certain District facilities based on current electrical rates and demands in comparison with other rate opportunities and facility improvements. Director Safranski expressed his support in the effort to reduce the District's energy costs and improve overall efficiency.

**MOTION:** None – Informational item only.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Safranski adjourned the August 2, 2023 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:30 a.m.