



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT | SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD or District) conducted on September 19, 2024, was called to order by President Stephen Dopudja at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Facility located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon, California. Mr. Michael Perea, District Secretary, transcribed the minutes thereof.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Stephen Dopudja
Vice President Ed Mandich
Director Glenn Acosta
Director Michael Safranski

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Director Don Chadd

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant
Phil Serpas, CMMS/SCADA Administrator

STAFF ABSENT

Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

Claire Collins, District General Legal Counsel - Hanson & Bridgett, LLP

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of the public present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Safranski led the Board of Directors, District staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

None

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Sue Marucci – Ms. Marucci addressed the Board of Directors with her concerns related to the District's fixed meter charge under Proposition 218 and its financial impacts to other customers. Ms. Marucci added that there has been water released from the District's Harris Grade reservoir adjacent to her community and asked for additional information concerning this matter.

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Allen Burnham – Mr. Burnham addressed the Board of Directors with his concerns related to the District’s public meeting oral communication rules and he asked a series of questions directed to Director Dopudja regarding his engineering firm’s contracts with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). Mr. Burnham provided a physical copy of the questions to District staff and requested the information be included in the minutes. *[A copy of this submitted document is maintained with the District’s permanent file for this meeting].*

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Director Safranski provided a brief report on the meetings he attended during the previous month, and he thanked staff for their response to the Airport Fire.

Director Mandich reported on a meeting that he, Director Dopudja, and the General Manager, attended with District customer Mark Anderson to discuss the Meter Downsizing Program and possible modifications. Director Mandich noted that the conversation was productive.

Director Dopudja reported on the meeting Mr. Anderson and he echoed Director Mandich’s comments. Director Dopudja also commended staff for their response to the Airport Fire, and he acknowledged the important role of the District’s Dove Lake in fighting the wildfire.

Director Acosta expressed his disappointment with the failed effort for the construction of an Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) training facility built within the District’s service area considering a member of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita (RSM) City Council also serves on the OCFA Board of Directors. Director Acosta stated that he would like the District to revisit/explore the possibility of having an OCFA facility built in the future to assist with fire response. A brief discussion occurred concerning the identified challenges associated with constructing this type of facility on the District’s Porter Property.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported on the District’s response to the Airport Fire, and he noted the high level of multi-agency communication and coordination. Mr. Paludi thanked staff for their response to the fire, specifically, he commended Mr. Jason Stroud for his on-the-ground communications efforts, and he added that he received positive comments from the community. Discussion occurred regarding impacts to District property from the Airport Fire, as well as the amount of water TCWD contributed to the firefighting efforts.

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Dopudja indicated that all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one motion unless a Board member or staff member requests a separate action on a specific item.

- MOTION:** Approve the consent calendar as presented – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** Director Chadd
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Director Chadd absent

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ACTION CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 5: RATIFICATION OF DIRECTORS' FEES AND EXPENSES, AND TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Director consideration and comment, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Finance/Audit Committee.

MOTION: Approve the tentative future meetings/attendance items and ratify the Directors' expenses and fees from August 2024 – Director Acosta

SECOND: Director Mandich

AYES: Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Director Chadd

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Director Chadd absent

ITEM 6: 2024 BIENNIAL REVIEW OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Ms. Collins provided an overview of the required biannual review, and she stated that if there are no changes to the District's list of officers with spending authority, that staff and counsel recommend to approve and adopt the item.

MOTION: Approve the current Conflict of Interest Code (COI Code) as presented and direct staff to submit the unchanged COI Code to the Orange County Clerk of the Board by October 1, 2024 – Director Acosta

SECOND: Director Safranski

AYES: Directors Dopudja Mandich, Acosta & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Director Chadd

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Director Chadd absent

ENGINEERING MATTERS

ITEM 7: HERITAGE SEWER LIFT STATION DESIGN COMPLETION

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Engineering/Operations Committee. Mr. Paludi provided a brief review of this project, and he stated that the proposed amendments have been solicited from the original design engineers. Mr. Paludi added that the scope of the project has been revised to address the identified asset condition information from the conditional assessment report performed by Hazen Sawyer in 2022.

Director Acosta expressed his support for the project and acknowledged the need for infrastructure improvements.

Director Dopudja noted the importance of this project to ensure continued recycled water production for future firefighting efforts.

MOTION: Authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 3 to JIG Consultants for the Heritage Sewer Lift Station Mechanical Improvements in the not-to-exceed amount of \$66,050 – Director Acosta

SECOND: Director Safranski

AYES: Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta & Safranski

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NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Director Chadd
MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Director Chadd absent

MOTION: Authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 2 to DMc Engineering for the Heritage Sewer Lift Station Site Improvements in the not-to-exceed amount of \$23,580 – Director Acosta
SECOND: Director Safranski
AYES: Directors Dopudja, Mandich, Acosta & Safranski
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Director Chadd
MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Director Chadd absent

ITEM 8: QUARTERLY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATES

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Engineering/Operations Committee. Mr. Paludi provided an update on various CIP projects, and he highlighted the District’s application for grant funds with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to offset costs associated with the Live Oak Canyon Pipeline Replacement project. Mr. Paludi also highlighted the Dove Lake Dam Improvements project, and he noted that the District is pursuing grant funds for this project as well.

MOTION: No action was taken.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 9: LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE INFORMATIONAL MATTER(S)

Ms. Collins reported that Governor Newsom has legislative bills on his desk that will likely be signed in the coming days. Ms. Collins stated that she will bring a legislative report to a future meeting with a summary of the signed bills going into effect on January 1, 2024.

MOTION: None – Informational item only.

CLOSED SESSION

Before entering closed session, Director Mandich recused himself from the closed session.

The Board of Directors, with the exception of Director Mandich, entered closed session in accordance with the agenda at 6:13 p.m. The General Manager, Assistant General Manager, and District General Counsel participated in the closed session.

This closed session ended at 6:47 p.m.

ITEM 10: REPORT OF ACTION(S) TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Collins reported that the Board of Directors met in closed session to review the matter as agendized, and that there was no action to be reported in closed session.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

None

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OTHER INFORMATION/MATTERS

None

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Dopudja adjourned the September 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting at 6:48 p.m.