MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
& OF THE
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 21, 2026

At approximately 7:41 a.m. Director McClean called the Engineering Committee meeting to order.

Directors MARK MONIN, MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and WYATT McCLEAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, Information Technology Manager (Zoom), SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs Manager (Zoom 7:48 a.m.), CAROL MOORE, City of Laguna Woods (Zoom), and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Consent Calendar

Director McClean asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Monin	aye
Director Gaskins	aye
Vice President Havens	aye
President Freshley	aye

Engineering Information Items

El Toro Water District Operations Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that next month's spill report will include the discharge of treated effluent at the Plant, emphasizing that none of the discharge left District property. The incident occurred during geotechnical boring related to the Effluent Transmission Main Replacement project. Staff responded promptly and repaired the pipe that same evening. Ms. Ford added that staff engaged in after-action discussions and one of the biggest lessons learned is that the project must continue to accelerate in order to remove the Techite pipe as soon as possible.

Mr. Hopkins noted that Plant staff took the filter beds down for a cleaning as a proactive measure and during that time more potable water than usual was used in the recycled system. Mr. Cafferty added that the system is designed for this purpose and so that demand can still be met when these situations occur.

President Freshley inquired about the status of the STEM contract. Mr. Cafferty stated that the contract has not been negotiated at this time but when negotiations take place, staff will ensure the terms are fair to the District.

El Toro Water District Capital Project Status Report

Headworks and Secondary Clarifier No. 1 Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Ford reported that the channel was coated and construction is nearing completion. Staff is preparing to begin the Northline highline the first week of October and the project is anticipated to be completed as scheduled. She added that staff is still working on the agreement with the Department of Energy to enable the receipt of $300,000 in grant funding.

Low 1 Zone Hydraulic Modification Project

Ms. Ford reported that after the design award to JIG Consultants, exploratory investigations will begin in order to confirm where the pressure reducing station will be located. Staff identified a hilled, vegetated space between two trees as a potential location where the District would remove the trees to prevent root intrusion. Additionally, staff met onsite with a contractor, T.E. Roberts, who was interested in entering into an agreement allowing the project to be expedited by at least three months. T.E. Roberts also agreed to participate in the design review meetings which will also help expedite the process. Vice President Havens asked if VMS would perform the tree removals since they have arborists under contract who do many tree removals. Ms. Ford stated that she will inquire with VMS.

Moulton/El Toro Cathodic Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that the value engineering effort is complete. The contractor mobilized, completed some potholing and will install the new anode groundbeds at two test stations soon. If testing goes well, anode groundbeds at an additional test station could be eliminated from the project and the project would be complete; saving approximately $107,000.

Freeway Electrical Equipment Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that Southern California Edison energized a week later than expected. Staff also removed the pole, which will allow the canopy to be raised.

SOCWA Effluent Transmission Main (ETM) Reach B Techite Replacement

Ms. Ford reported that staff received the 60% design submittal and is reviewing the CEQA project descriptions. Staff is also negotiating easement agreements with VMS and Golden Rain Foundation and aim to be done around the same time as the design completion. Mr. Cafferty added that staff continues to work towards an

agreement for the ownership of the pipeline. The new pipeline maintenance agreements were drafted and are in review.

R-6 Reservoir Southern Slope Repair Project

Ms. Ford reported that a site visit was conducted to confirm vegetation establishment and the contractor will be released. She added that this project is complete and next month's report will include the final update with the total project costs compared to budget. Mr. Cafferty stated that an updated easement with the church is in progress and will be recorded.

Aliso Creek Lift Station Improvement Project

Ms. Ford reported that staff is coordinating with Golden Rain Foundation and United Mutual to complete the easement agreements and are nearly done with negotiations.

Engineering Items Discussed at Various Conferences and Meetings

There were no comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Engineering Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:34 a.m.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Engineering Committee Items

There were no comments.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is no need for a Closed Session today.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MARISOL MELENDEZ
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

KATHRYN FRESHLEY, President
of the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof

DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
of the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof