

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT  
ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP  
APRIL 8, 2014**

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**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Edward Mandich, Committee Chair  
Michael Safranski, Committee Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

Hector Ruiz, General Manager  
Michael Perea, District Secretary  
Lorrie Lausten, Engineer  
Kris Hanberg, Wastewater Department Superintendent  
Neil McKenna, Water Department Superintendent  
Bob Beck, Maintenance Department Superintendent

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

No members of the public were present.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Mandich called the April 8, 2014, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting to order at 7:02 AM.

**VISITOR PARTICIPATION**

No comments were received.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**

No comments were received.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Safranski commented on his attendance at the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Elected Officials Forum on April 3, 2014, and highlighted the following topics:

- CORE vs. CHOICE Programs  
Discussion occurred concerning South County Agency comments on the methodology and selection of certain CORE and CHOICE programs. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that District staff will bring updated information concerning MWDOC's Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget to the Regular Board Meeting for review.
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) Director Vacancy. Discussion occurred concerning notification to South County Agencies of the process guidelines and timeline for the determination of potential nominees to fill the current vacancy.

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- MWDOC Staffing. Discussion occurred concerning open employment positions at MWDOC and possible staffing options. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that MWDOC is considering the addition of another Full-Time Employee to the Water Emergency Response of Orange County (WEROC). Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the position had been filled with one full time and one part time positions, but the work requires two full time positions, in particular during times of major emergencies and to follow through with the implementation of the various emergency programs and grants.
- Discussion occurred concerning the passing of Colonel Jack Foley, MET Director, and the funeral arrangements.

Mr. Mandich had no comments.

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

Mr. Ruiz commented on the following matters:

- The Administration Facility roof is currently being repaired due to some water damage and wood rot. Mr. Ruiz added that the project was a Board-approved Capital Improvement Project for the current Fiscal Year, and that the Project Contractor has replaced the roof paper and the damaged wood.
- District staff is currently working on the Draft Fiscal Year 2014/2015 General Fund and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budgets, and will have a Draft CIP Budget for review at the next Committee Meeting. Discussion occurred concerning emergency standby generator(s) for District facilities.

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

Mr. Ruiz presented the March 11, 2014, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap for Committee review.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Engineering/Operational Committee recommended that the Board receive and file the March 11, 2014, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap (Consent Calendar).

### **ITEM 2: SHADOW ROCK DETENTION BASIN FACILITY PROJECT**

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and commented that District staff contacted the adjacent property owner to schedule a meeting to address their concerns regarding the project and discuss the options for providing an electrical connection to the project site. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that the Trabuco Highlands Community Association (THCA) has agendaized the matter of the easement for discussion at their upcoming regular board meeting. Mr. Ruiz commented that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita (City) staff is currently reviewing the certain submittals from URS (Consultant), which includes the Hydrological Study, Water Quality Management Plan, and the Erosion Control Plan. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff is currently working with the City to complete the necessary permits for the project. Mr. Ruiz commented that the Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice will be completed on April 11th, and that the District will be

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issued a Notice to Proceed afterwards. Discussion occurred concerning project design and timeline for project completion. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that District staff is awaiting final comments from the City prior to the completion of the project design. Discussion occurred concerning Basin Management and Maintenance; Mr. Ruiz commented that Bemus Landscape is currently managing the cattail and plant growth control. Discussion occurred concerning alternative power options for the project site; Mr. Ruiz commented that District staff will review the power options with the adjacent property owner in the scheduled meeting.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

### **ITEM 3: ALTERNATE RAW WATER TRANSMISSION LINE - PW79**

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Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and commented that District staff has submitted a letter to Southern California Edison (SCE) in response to the constraints on the right-of-way and their exclusive easements. Discussion occurred concerning SCE exclusive easements and overhead versus underground power lines, and opportunities to escalate the matter with the appropriate SCE personnel. Discussion occurred concerning alternative project options and re-route solutions in the event that negotiations with SCE are unsuccessful, and the potential delays on the project timeline. Mr. Safranski expressed his concern about the project's success at this time due to the delays with SCE, and requested input from the Committee for possible solutions. Discussion occurred concerning opportunities for District staff and Tetra Tech (Consultant) to meet with SCE staff to discuss the significance of the project, and the potential hazards that may result in the event that the project is not completed. Mr. Ruiz reviewed the project schedule and timeline for completion with the Committee.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

### **ITEM 4: BAKER WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

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Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this project, and mentioned that the April 10, 2014, Project Committee Meeting had been cancelled. Mr. Ruiz added that demolition at the site has continued, and that Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) Baker Monthly Report will be presented at the Regular Board Meeting for review. Discussion occurred concerning project timeline. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff will be coordinating with IRWD for a scheduled shutdown of the District's Raw Water Transmission Line. Ms. Lausten added that the twenty-four hour shutdown is scheduled for the week of April 21<sup>st</sup>, and that Operations staff will use existing interconnections with Santa Margarita Water District to convey water to the District's service area. Discussion occurred concerning the scheduled shutdown and preparation of the pipeline for the shutdown.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

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**ITEM 5: OTHER ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS PROJECTS**

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1. Golf Club Sewer Lift Station Upgrades and Rehabilitation

Ms. Lausten provided a status update on the installation of the surge control system and commented that Hunter Electric (Contractor) is scheduled to finish the final electrical work on Wednesday. Ms. Lausten added that once the surge control system has been tested and confirmed to be in working order that the project will be complete.

2. Other Projects

Mr. Ruiz commented there were no other engineering and operations projects.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

**ITEM 6: SKYRIDGE DEVELOPMENT (84 DUs)**

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Mr. Ruiz commented that this development has been an ongoing project which includes collaboration with Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD). Mr. Ruiz mentioned that SMWD is reviewing the Technical Memorandum prepared by Psomas (Consultant). Discussion occurred concerning which agency will be providing domestic water and sewer capacity to the development; Mr. Ruiz commented that the District will be providing domestic water through SMWD infrastructure, and that the sewer from the development will connect to the El Toro Road Sewer Trunk System and pumped to SMWD's Chiquita Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Ruiz added that District staff is scheduled to meet with Psomas and District General Legal Counsel to review the sewer capacity agreement language for the development. Discussion occurred concerning construction water for the development.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

**ITEM 7: ACTIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

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1. Saddle Crest Homes (65 DUs)

Mr. Ruiz commented that there were no updates concerning the development.

2. Summerfield Homes (5 DUs)

Mr. Ruiz provided a status update on this development and demonstrated its location in the District's service area via Google Maps. Mr. Ruiz commented that the development at this time consists of empty parcels and irrigation meters. Discussion occurred concerning development specifics and proposed sewer system management with the need for private home owner sewer lift stations.

3. Other Active Developments

Mr. Ruiz commented that there were no other active developments for discussion.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

**ITEM 8: WATER SYSTEM STATUS**

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The Water Department Superintendent Mr. Neil McKenna presented the Water System Status Update through March, 2014. Mr. McKenna reported on the following matters:

- Water Department staff collected the Disinfection By-Products samples for the first quarter of 2014. Mr. Ruiz commended Mr. McKenna and Mr. Gary Kessler, Water Department Chief Plant Operator, for their management of the Disinfection By-Products routine sampling. Discussion occurred concerning disinfection treatment methods, including free chlorine versus chloramines, and the impacts of treatment methods on water chemistry and system management.
- Water Department staff completed the conversion of two older-style dry barrel fire hydrants to a new, operator-friendly wet barrel design.
- Water Department staff has inspected the Dove Canyon Master Association street repair work to ensure that the water valve cans and sewer manhole lids have been properly elevated.

Mr. McKenna mentioned that the SAC Influent Meter has been removed for repair and that this is reflected in the Monthly Water System Operations Summary.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

**ITEM 9: WASTEWATER SYSTEM STATUS**

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The Wastewater Department Superintendent, Mr. Kris Hanberg, presented the Wastewater System Status Update through March, 2014. Mr. Hanberg reported on the following matters:

- Wastewater Department staff assisted the Maintenance Department staff replace a pump at the Via Allegre Sewer Lift Station.
- Wastewater Department staff cleaned the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant Influent Equalization Basin (NEQ Tank) and replaced the following appurtenances: Mud Valves, Stem and Guides on a Gate Valve.
- Wastewater Department staff pumped excess water from the Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility site four times per week during the month.

Mr. Hanberg reviewed the Recycled Water System Summary with the Committee, and commented that Dove Lake's water quality condition has improved after the application of copper sulfate earlier this year, and currently has a freeboard of two feet due to the recent rain event. Mr. Hanberg reviewed the Sewer System Management Plan Quarterly Report with the Committee, and reviewed the additional work completed in the Quarter.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received status update, no action taken.

**ITEM 10: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY ADVANCED METER PROJECT**

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Mr. Ruiz presented this matter for Committee review, and commented that District staff met with Southern California Gas Company (SCGC) representatives on April 1, 2014, to discuss their Advanced Meter Project and the possibility of the acquirement of a 6-foot circular easement at the District's Dove Canyon Reservoir for the placement of a solar-powered Data Collection Unit. Mr. Ruiz added that SCGC initially contacted the Dove Canyon Master Association (DCMA) concerning the matter, but were redirected to contact the District. Discussion occurred concerning possible Dove Canyon resident's concerns with the addition of a Data Collection Unit on an electrical pole on the District's property. Mr. Ruiz commented that SCGC was provided a copy of the Limited Use License Agreement between the District and DCMA for review and consideration before proceeding in this matter. Discussion occurred concerning the method of data communications for SCGC. Mr. Mandich recommended that the General Manager request for more information concerning the project before proceeding.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Received information at the time of the Committee Meeting, and recommended that the General Manager request additional information concerning the project.

**ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS/REPORTS**

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Mr. Ruiz commented that there were no other matters or reports for discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Mandich adjourned the April 8, 2014, Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting at 8:08 AM.