

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on February 1, 2023, was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:32 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson Nelson, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier (*via teleconference*), Member Nelson, Member Johnson (*via video conference*), Alternate Largent (*via video conference*).

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy, Executive Assistant Washburn, Engineering and CIP Manager Williams, Operations Manager Gutierrez, Information Technology Manager Khattab, Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Analyst Barrow.

Absent: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson.

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Senior Project Manager Parra, Administrative Analyst Rubio.

No members of the public were present in person, via teleconference or video conference.

4. **INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS FROM THOSE ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Mr. Nelson read aloud the instructions for those attending the meeting via teleconference or video conference.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Alternate Largent was seated.

6. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (Government Code §54954.2)**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Limit 3 Minutes)**

There were no comments.

***8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 2, 2022

Motion:

To approve the November 2, 2022 minutes.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Johnson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Johnson, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson.

9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy shared information related to the competing proposals made in the western water world with one from the six basin states excluding California and the other from California. He talked about various aspects of both proposals. Discussion ensued.

10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Williams introduced Colette Barrow, RMWD's newest Administrative Analyst, who will be sharing duties with Delia Rubio.

11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez provided additional information related to the water issues previously discussed under Item #9. He also reported the wastewater system was almost overwhelmed during the recent 4"-5" of heavy rains; however, leaks were prevented due to having 4-6 crew members working throughout the weekend to do whatever was necessary hold the flows.

Mr. Kennedy added the Thoroughbred Lift Station will be very helpful during these types of situations.

Mr. Gutierrez announced North County Fire will be holding a symposium on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Fallbrook High School at 9:00 a.m. to which RMWD, FPUD, SDG&E, and Sheriff's Department are invited. He noted the purpose of this symposium is to inform the public as to what agency is doing to prepare for better fire responsiveness.

Mr. Gutierrez reported on the discussions he had with some ISO representatives regarding what could be done to lower RMWD's ISO rating which in turn would help ratepayers with obtaining or paying less for fire insurance. He noted one representative told him ISO was more concerned with fires originating inside homes as opposed to vegetation fires that are distinguished with the use of heli-hydrants. He explained the District's current rating of 3x and how he will be reviewing North County Fire's ISO report to determine what could be done for the District to get a better rating.

Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Gutierrez for looking into the ISO matter. He expressed concern with the idea that ratepayers were experiencing large numbers of insurance companies cutting over their insurance or no longer writing policies for their area due to thousands of fires starting within homes

as opposed to brush fires that have destroyed numerous properties. He stated this sounds like a great deal of creative mendacity. Mr. Kennedy pointed out the disconnect between the insurance availability and costs with ISO ratings may be due to insurance companies taking a closer look at the wildfire maps and severity hazards being provided by the State may be impacting whether insurance coverage will be provided. He said the benefits of heli-hydrants assisting with extinguishing vegetation as well as structure fires will need to be proven over time as part of the educational processes.

Ms. Brazier stated never mind the fact power companies are evading any responsibility in preventing some of these fires with the way they do business. Discussion ensued.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Gutierrez for taking the time out of their schedules in December to discuss with him how RMWD assesses construction and project progress including the methodologies and practices used for calculating estimates to complete a project. He talked about what he learned about the very rigorous process that has been established that is both confrontational and consultative at the same time. He stated he was very grateful for the time spent with him as well as thanked the project managers who are administering these jobs what he perceives to be very good results. He concluded with complimenting the team noting there has been dramatic growth and expertise in execution since he first joined this committee.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported the Board approved quitclaiming easements for the Bonsall Oaks Development in January.

(Discussion returned from Item #14.)

Mr. Williams clarified the Board did not meet in November; thus, there were no board updates to report for that month and he does not recall what took place at the December Board meeting.

(Discussion went to Item #15.)

14. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Washburn mentioned it has been a year since the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were last appointed in February 2022; however, it was available to defer this item until the next meeting if the committee so desired.

Ms. Brazier stated these committee meetings have been held with or without a full compliment of members and how it was generally proforma and 99% of the time somebody makes a motion to retain the current structure. She said in the event someone would like to make a change, it can be brought forward at a future agenda.

Motion:

To retain the current structure.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Johnson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Johnson, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson.

(Discussion returned to Item #13.)

15. METER ACCURACY AND WATER LOSS PRESENTATION (IT AND OPERATIONS)

Mr. Kennedy stated every year RMWD conducts a Water Loss Audit in which all reads are aggregated along with the purchases which are then normalized to the same date from which calculations are made. He noted when the data came out for this year, something seemed off which started the process of digging deeper into what had transpired. He gave a presentation that reviewed the steps taken and discoveries found through the investigative processes. Discussions ensued.

Mr. Nelson asked what the fix will cost. Mr. Kennedy stated the registers cost approximately \$150 each which would total approximately \$50,000 for 300; however, the revenue to be gained would equate to approximately \$1 million. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kennedy noted this information will be presented to the Board in February.

***16. NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR MALABAR RANCH DEVELOPMENT (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams noted this was recommended to be presented to the Board in February. He explained this was a unique situation in that the developer passed away during the construction process and how it took almost two years to locate someone with whom they could discuss the project. He pointed out the project was complete built per the plans and specifications; however, due to the situation, the one-year warranty was being waived.

Motion:

That the committee recommend the Board adopt Option 1 - Accept the Malabar Ranch Estates Improvements as complete and as shown on the approved plans, approve Filing the Notice of Completion, add installation costs of \$1,128,075 to the District's valuation, and make a finding that the action herein does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Nelson, Seconded by Member Johnson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Johnson, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson.

***17. NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR CATHODIC PROTECTION FOR RAINBOW VALLEY BOULEVARD (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams noted this was the first cathodic protection projects on which RMWD has embarked. He stated the project was completed with Mr. Tamimi assigned as the project manager.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out the next series of projects are also important to keep in the funnel noting corrosion was one of the larger items noted in the condition assessment process. He mentioned installing cathodic protection was a cost-effective way to help reduce leakage and main breaks going forward until pipeline replacement funds become available.

Mr. Nelson stated he was in favor of the item, but wanted to know how many feet of pipe was protected for the \$150,000 spent. Mr. Gutierrez noted it was approximately 1.5 miles of pipe. Mr. Nelson asked if it would be inappropriate to expect that as more experience is gained the cost per unit can be reduced. Discussion ensued.

Motion:

To recommend the Board approve Option 1 - Accept the Rainbow Valley Blvd Cathodic Protection Project, approve filing the Notice of Completion, add installation costs to the District's total valuation, release the Payment Bond in the amount of \$524,703.14, release 90% of the Performance Bond in the amount of \$472,232.83, retain 10% of the Performance Bond in the amount of \$52,470.31 as the warranty bond for one (1) year, and make a determination that the action identified herein was sufficiently analyzed as qualifying for a Class 1 Exemption and adopted by the Board of Directors at the December 7, 2021 Board Meeting and does not require any additional action.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Johnson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Johnson, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson.

18. CIP UPDATE POWERPOINT (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Williams gave a presentation as he and members of the engineering team provided updates on each of the different CIP projects currently in progress.

***19. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

Ms. Johnson excused herself from the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Williams pointed out there were twelve new consultants on board with contracts and others going out for a few more soon.

20. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

It was noted a meter update should be on the next committee meeting agenda.

21. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary