

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on September 2, 2015 was called to order by Chairperson Prince at 3:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson Prince, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Prince
Member Brazier
Member Stitle
Member Murray
Member Kirby
Member Ratican
Alternate Robertson
Alternate Kirkpatrick

Absent: Member Taufer

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy
Director Walker
Assistant Rubio

Public members present were Ms. Rhyne, Mr. Marmett and Mr. Elliott.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. August 5, 2015

Action:

Moved by Member Brazier to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Member Stitle.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Member Prince, Member Brazier, Member Stittle, Member Murray, Member Ratican, Member Kirby, and Alternate Robertson.
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Member Taufer

6. SEWER POLICY

Mrs. Kirkpatrick explained the District's Sewer Policy has been an evolving document and currently there were a few issues with it. She said with the upcoming Master Plan Updates there would be some changes affecting this policy and it would be the right time to clarify the current issues. She provided the following summary of the current sewer policy:

- Purchased Sewer Permits are issued for a term of two years;
- After two years the permits are expired and have to be brought up to date, which means if the capacity fees increased during those two years the customer would have to pay the difference and sign a new sewer permit;
- Currently if the sewer permit expires and the customer does not sign a new sewer permit any fees paid are non-refundable and remain with the District.
- When a sewer permit is purchased an account is opened and the customer is charged monthly unconnected fees (\$41.67), this stops developers from purchasing all the District's EDUs.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick said sewer permit fees remaining with the District have to be clarified, such as stating that fees paid shall remain with the parcel. Mr. Kennedy said the capacity fees would be changed when the Master Plan was updated, although the policy question to continue as is or revise it needs to be discussed. He mentioned staff can come up with a few options and present it at the next Committee Meeting. Discussion ensued.

7. WATER RECLAMATION

Mr. Kennedy said at the September 2015 Board Meeting he would be presenting the Water Reclamation project for consideration. He mentioned as part of the Master Plan Update the consultant would be determining whether the District should become involved in water reclamation. He explained the Water Reclamation was not on the current CIP, although in order to move forward beyond a Master Plan analysis staff requires the Board to take action. He introduced Mr. Elliott from Atkins Consulting to provide a preview of options and costs for the Water Reclamation project.

Mr. Elliott provided a brief overview of the options and preliminary cost analysis for the Water Reclamation project as follows:

No. 1 – No Project Alternative: Continue sending the wastewater to Oceanside. Review future flows to determine upgrades of the wastewater lines. When wastewater flows leave the District to Oceanside any upgrades to their facilities would be affecting costs to the District.

No. 2 – RMWD Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WRP) I-15 & SR-76 Alternative: The District would build its own 0.9 MGD WRP. Would allow the District to capture recycle water flow.

There are costs associated with building the WRP, although the District would avoid paying Oceanside and free up capital to invest in a treatment plant. Various sites were evaluated to determine where the most use of recycle water would be benefited. LS-2 would allow 95% to 100% of captured flow. In order to reuse the water beneficially it would require adding recycled pipelines and pumps to the large users. There would still be a small amount of flow to Oceanside.

No. 3 – RMWD Wastewater Treatment Plant at LS-1 or LS-2: The District would build its own 1.5 MGD WRP. There would be minimal flow to Oceanside.

Mr. Elliott provided a copy of the preliminary cost analysis for the Water Reclamation Plant for the three alternatives. He briefly went over the flow parameters, life-cycle summary, capital costs and annual costs. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Elliott said one of the opportunities the District has was the incoming developers. He pointed out there were opportunities for grant money and other recycle programs. He said an added value would be to include another component by adding a program to offset water per drought level restrictions. Mr. Kennedy agreed that all recycle water distribution systems require grant funds to be successful. He mentioned the funding that remained from the Master Plan Project would be used to prepare a predesign report. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stitle asked how the brine would be handled. Mr. Elliott responded an option would be to truck the brine similar to the Ramona and the San Vicente Plant and the other option would be to build a brine line. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out that staff was not recommending the Board approve going forward with building a Reclamation Plant, however recommended approval for additional detailed engineering studies to validate the information from the Master Plan for water reclamation and recycled water systems. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy said the Board was asked to take the following actions:

1. Determine that the development of a local water reclamation plant and recycled water system has the potential to provide a drought proof local supply of water for RMWD ratepayers.
2. Determine that the development of a local water reclamation plant and recycled water system is potentially feasible, but that additional information is needed.
3. Determine that should additional studies demonstrate the feasibility of a water reclamation plant and recycled water system, it is the Board's intention to pursue the construction of the facilities necessary to operate such a system.
4. Determine that all work on the Beck Reservoir UV Project be stopped and the project be put on indefinite hold until the final decision on the development of a recycled water system is reached.
5. Authorize the General Manager and Engineering Manager to develop a Request for Proposal for additional engineering services necessary to bring the project through to the completion of a Pre-Design Report
6. Authorize the General Manager and Engineering Manager to begin the process of preparing environmental review documents required under the California Environmental Quality Act.
7. Authorize the General Manager and Engineering Manager to apply for Planning Grants and other grants that are available for water reclamation projects from State and Federal Sources.
8. Appropriate \$200,000 from the Master Planning Project for the cost of the development of the Pre-Design Report.

Mr. Kennedy noted that a great deal of the costs associated with this project can be part of development capacity fees, limiting the exposure of the current wastewater ratepayers to the cost of the project. He said water reclamation was a priority and a process and he would like to continue going forward with this project. Discussion ensued.

Action:

Moved by Alternate Member Robertson to recommend to the Board to move forward with the next phase of analysis for the Water Reclamation Plant recycle water system. Seconded by Member Lee.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Member Prince, Member Brazier, Member Lee, Member Murray, Member Ratican, Member Stitle, and Alternate Robertson.
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Member Taufer

8. MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Elliott said in addition to the water reclamation system the Master Plan was reviewing the entire wastewater collection system. He pointed out the Wastewater Master Plan was ahead based on all the work completed on the reclamation system, specifically with Item Number 1 the No Project Alternative. He said the Water Master Plan work was reviewing the entire water system, operations and opportunities to improve reliability. He mentioned the District has a lot of water storage located on the western part of the District. He said one of the District's challenges was moving the water from the west to the east during the CWA shutdowns. He stated a review to improve facilities and efficiencies of permanent facilities during shutdown operations was being conducted. He stated future development and agriculture were also being analyzed.

Mr. Kennedy stated Beck Reservoir could in theory provide emergency storage for the new developments, however Morro Reservoir has some constraints could provide that storage. He said developments would have to pay for the facilities to move flow from South to North more efficiently. He said the District was also looking at areas with high pressure to bring down the pressures in the new development clustered areas. He noted another aspect of the new development was to require advanced metering infrastructure. Discussion ensued.

9. LAFCO UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy said the LAFCO Report was out. He mentioned there would be a bus load of people attending the meeting on September 14, 2015. He stated there was one more community meeting scheduled today. He expressed the next time this Committee meets he hopes the LAFCO Update would be removed from the agenda permanently.

Ms. Brazier left at 4:18 p.m.

10. CIP UPDATE

Mrs. Kirkpatrick provided a copy of the Board Information report listing all the current CIP and Developer projects:

- Afton Farms Waterline Extension: The easement was obtained and staff is working on the formal bid.
- Highway 76: Traffic would be switched over from Mission Road to Via Monserrate Road on October 5, 2015.
- Warner Ranch Development: The updated water study will be presented to the Board in October 2015. There is ground water available in this area to off-set fees. EIR was ready to be released.
- San Luis Rey Ground Water: Report due September.
- D.R. Horton Development: Construction scheduled to start this Fall.

11. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Mrs. Kirkpatrick announced if anyone was interested in visiting some of the District facilities to let her know and she would schedule a trip sometime next month.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

Moved by Member Prince to adjourn. Seconded by Member Stittle.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Member Prince, Member Lee, Member Murray, Member Ratican, Member Stittle, and Alternate Robertson.
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: Member Taufer

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Timothy Prince, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary