

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on July 1, 2020 was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:00 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 Ratican, Member Brazier (*via teleconference*), Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent (*via video conference*).

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy, Executive Assistant Washburn, Information and Technology Specialist Espino.

Present via Teleconference or Video:

District Engineer Strapac, Project Manager Williams, IT Manager Khattab,
Engineering Technician Rubio, Operations Manager Gutierrez.

No members of the public were present via teleconference or video.

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

Mr. Nelson read the instructions aloud for anyone attending offsite.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

No alternates were seated.

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

Mr. Nelson announced staff has recommended Items #14 and #21 be postponed.

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

There were no comments.

8. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kennedy provided a brief update on the SDCWA detachment matter.

9. DISTRICT ENGINEER COMMENTS

Mr. Strapac noted his comments will be made during the agenda item discussions related to Engineering projects.

10. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez reported staff has completed two spot repairs on the North River Road project without issue. He noted Mr. Williams will provide an update on the North River Road project.

Mr. Gutierrez announced a new Construction and Maintenance Supervisor has been hired.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ratican noted he observed at the intersection of Las Ramonas and Yucca there was an air vac that may have been damaged. Mr. Gutierrez said he will take care of this. Mr. Ratican noted there is a transmission main near Live Oak Park that may be impacted by a fence being built by someone residing at the end of the cul-de-sac. Mr. Gutierrez asked Mr. Ratican to send him the address so he could investigate this matter. Mr. Williams agreed to also review this matter with Mr. Tamimi to determine if an encroachment permit was required.

12. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Strapac mentioned each of the engineering items the Board voted to approve at their June 23, 2020 Board meeting.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out the Board had approved forming an ad hoc committee to work on the Headquarters Development Study Services project. Mr. Ratican and Mr. Nelson said they would be interested in participating on the ad hoc committee. Mr. Kennedy stated Ms. Washburn will coordinate an ad hoc committee meeting to include Mr. Ratican, Mr. Nelson, Director Mack and Director Rindfleisch when Mr. Strapac has a timeframe.

***13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. June 3, 2020

Motion:

To approve the minutes of June 3, 2020.

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

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

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.

14. PRESENTATION BY ENGIE SERVICES U.S. ON SOLAR POWER

This item was postponed per Item #6.

15. PIPELINE UPGRADE PROJECT (PUP) #1 UPDATE

Mr. Strapac noted the committee had recommended splitting the project into multiple bid packages by geographical areas and how the design consultant has nearly completed this task. He explained staff was seeking input from the committee regarding possibly staggering the solicitation for bids. He explained the benefit of staggering the bids would be possibly receiving better responses.

Mr. Ratican inquired as to if the bids were staggered would the construction be staggered as well. Mr. Strapac explained there would be quite a bit of overlapping. Mr. Kennedy added it would also be a less complex bidding process; however, he would prefer the staggering be scheduled to avoid running into the rainy season.

Mr. Nelson said his bias is that he wants to see as much work get done as quickly as humanly possible, especially since RMWD has "as needed" contract services available. He deferred to Mr. Strapac as to whether the bids should be staggered; however, his preference was the bids get out sooner than later.

Discussion ensued.

16. PIPELINE UPGRADE PROJECT (PUP) #2 UPDATE

Mr. Strapac noted this was under design by Harris & Associates and how part of the project was fast tracked due to County having a paving project taking place in the same location. He reported this project came from the pipe assessment program, was at 90% with work being conducted on the final drawings, and was expected to go to bid next month. He noted the surveying has been nearly completed and easement research was under way.

Mr. Strapac reported facility information has been requested from each site, preliminary design was underway for the remaining sites, and pipe materials have been established.

Mr. Strapac talked about a small section of pipe off Little Gopher Canyon that is very expensive to replace or work on due to the fact it crosses a creek that feeds four homes. He said one possibility he thought could work would be having another agency provide service. He confirmed he has discussed this possibility with Vista Irrigation District. Mr. Kennedy added this would be something for LAFCO to consider.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed RMWD would pay the capital costs for another agency to provide service. He noted a quick Out of Service Agreement could be put in place; however, it would need to go to LAFCO through a Municipal Service Review process to avoid paying a \$25,000 LAFCO application fee.

17. UPDATE ON RFP FOR AS-NEEDED CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Mr. Strapac stated staff put out a Request for Proposal with responses due July 16, 2020. He said after once the proposals received are reviewed, they will be brought back to the Committee for a recommendation. He explained the question period cutoff date was June 26, 2020. Discussion followed.

18. VALLECITOS TANK DAMAGE REPORT

Mr. Kennedy reported the Vallecitos Tank was damaged by an operator error as well as how during the evaluation of the situation, it was found some of the damage was caused by a blockage in the screen by sandblasting debris. He said he was working on the latter issue with Suez. He stated the repairs would cost approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out the tank was already in existence with Suez took over the coating maintenance. He explained the damage was worse than expected due to the way the center column was originally constructed that would not meet current standards as well as the way the overflow was designed regardless of the blockage. He stated he hoped to have a formalized agreement with Suez to pay for 75% of the damage and RMWD the remaining 25% to present at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Nelson asked if the portion of liability at 75% to Suez and 25% to RMWD was solely based on operator error. Mr. Kennedy clarified it was not solely based on operator error because part of the cause was due to the way the structure was built. Mr. Nelson asked if the overall difficulties with the structure aspect of the center column and conditions were in place at the time Suez took on the work of maintaining RMWD's tanks. Mr. Kennedy confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Kennedy stated he found the arrangement Suez proposed to be fair since RMWD did make an error causing some of the damage.

19. WATER SERVICES UPGRADE PROGRAM (WSUP) PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Williams said a presentation was given to the Board on June 23, 2020 at which time the project was at 7% complete and how by the end of this week, it will be at 10%.

Mr. Gutierrez reported Concord caught up to the vacuum and how a second vacuums has been put in use to prevent this from reoccurring. He pointed out with the District offices closed on July 3, 2020; therefore, Concord would not be working on the project that day either. He noted staff will be able to complete and close out tickets and hoped to have 20% completed by the date of the July Board meeting.

Mr. Marnett asked the total number of meters when the project is complete. Mr. Williams said the total will be 8,130 meters.

20. NORTH RIVER ROAD SEWER PENDING BID DISCUSSION

Mr. Williams stated the project was out for bid and posted on the District website. He explained the repair was very deep. He said questions on the bid have been received from contractors.

Mr. Nelson asked for the engineer cost estimates for Phase I. Mr. Williams said it was approximately \$360,000.

Mr. Williams said Phase II will have a staggered start with bids going out July 17th and how staff would like to bring this to the Board for consideration at their August meeting. He mentioned there were several manholes requiring lining and the need to be raised. He concluded with noting the RMWD staff members involved with this project continue to meet on a very regular basis to keep this project moving forward.

21. SUEZ CONTRACT AMENDMENT REVIEW

This item was postponed per Item #6.

22. COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy mentioned the District does not plan to reopen to the public at this time as well as mentioned some of the challenges other agencies have faced in their reopening process. He said it is anticipated the current situation will continue for quite some time.

23. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Mr. Strapac offered to email the summary to the committee members for their reference.

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

It was noted the solar power item, Suez contract review, updates on PUP #1 and #2, and discussion on the Morro Reservoir options and “as needed” Civil Engineering Services should be on the next agenda.

25. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson. Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary