

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on February 4, 2025, was called to order was called to order by Chairman Nelson at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairman Nelson presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Irvine, Gasca, and Johnson

Also Present: General Manager Wiley, Operations Manager Gutierrez, District Secretary Quintanar, Information Technology Manager Khattab, and Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Assistant Montano, Safety & Risk Management Officer Johnson, Joe Webber, Morteza Mirshekari, and Bryan Rall with Atlas

4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

None were seated.

5. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None were requested.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion: To approve the Agenda as presented.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Johnson, Seconded by Member Gasca

Vote: Motion carried unanimous (summary: Ayes = 6)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Johnson, Gasca, Irvine

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests to speak.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 7, 2025

Motion: To approve the January 7, 2025, Minutes as amended to add information about availability of the PowerPoint for Item 12

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Gasca, Seconded by Member Johnson

Vote: Motion carried by majority vote, with Member Irvine abstaining (summary: Ayes = 5)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Johnson, Gasca,

9. COMMENTS & REQUESTS

- A. General Manager's Comments
- B. Engineering & CIP Program Manager's Comments
- C. Operations Manager's Comments
- D. Committee Member's Comments

In regard to water supply, General Manager Wiley reported that the State Water Project allocation is 15%. MWD has started the year with record-high storage and is well-prepared for a dry year. Rainbow MWD's sales are up about 20 percent over last year.

Member Gasca thanked Mr. Gutierrez for his report and that he posted it on NextDoor, where it was well received.

Member Marnett noted that his home is near the Hutton Tank and when the Napa Fire Department assisted with fighting the recent Lilac Fire. They were unable to connect to the hydrant but were able to connect to the tank to access water, and his home sustained no fire damage.

Member Johnson relayed gratitude for all of the efforts to save structures during the Lilac Fire.

Member Gasca mentioned an article by the City of Vista Mayor John Franklin titled "WildFire in San Diego County" and that there may be potential for funding from Vista for future facilities to assist firefighting efforts.

10. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported on the two Notices of Completion approved by the Board of Directors on January 28, 2025.

11. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Motion: To approve the annual appointment naming Member Nelson as Committee Chair and Member McKesson as Committee Vice Chair.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Gasca, Seconded by Member Johnson

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes = 6)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Johnson, Gasca, Irvine

12. CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PERRAULT CORPORATION FOR SERVICES AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS (DIVISION 4)

Mr. Wiley explained that the draft agreement establishes a unique arrangement for Perrault Corporation to utilize a portion of the District's lower yard to process materials that the District might otherwise have to haul away and provide materials such as sand or gravel that the District needs, free of charge. Also, the District's vehicles would be washed once per month. This is a mutually beneficial agreement, and it has been reviewed by the District's Legal Counsel and ACWA JPIA. The term would be five years, with a 60-day notification for termination, if needed.

The lower yard property is not suitable for the construction of a structure, and this arrangement will create non-ratepayer revenue. Needed materials will always be available for the District and Perrault employees will access the lower yard through the entrance off of Highway 395. Their work is limited to working hours, and they will perform dust control.

Motion: To approve the recommendation for the Board to approve the Agreement with Perrault Corporation for services at the District Headquarters.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member McKesson, Seconded by Member Marnett

Vote: Motion carried with Member Irvine abstaining (summary: Ayes =5)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Johnson, Gasca, Irvine

13. CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT WITH DEXTER WILSON ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE DESIGN OF THE GOPHER PUMP STATION PROJECT (DIVISION 1)

Mr. Williams reported that the District's temporary Gopher Pump Station has been in operation for one-year and moves water from the Turner Tank to the Gopher Tank. The temporary pump station was installed to address an operational need identified during the construction of the West Lilac, Rancho Amigos, and Dentre De Lomas pump stations. The District intends to replace the temporary system with a permanent pump station that will include new piping and valving configurations to the existing system so water can be pumped to the Gopher Tank and also have the ability to draw from or discharge to any of the three southern tank zones (Hutton, Turner, and Gopher). It would become a main terminus location to pump to any of zones, providing maximum operation flexibility during high water demands, Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), system shutdowns, or other planned or unplanned pump station outages in these zones.

Members Nelson and Johnson expressed concern with the timing and future expense the District might have to commit to, with the estimated facility construction cost significantly higher than originally proposed. They also urged pipeline replacements to be the priority over the design work. A lengthy discussion ensued about power needs, operational benefits, and the increased possibility of grant funding if the project is "shovel-ready."

Staff reported that this work is included in the CIP Budget and no additional funds are requested at this time. Four firms submitted proposals: Ardurra, Dexter Wilson Engineering, Harris & Associates, and WaterWorks Engineers. Staff recommended awarding Dexter Wilson Engineering as the firm with the best approach, relevant project experience, and cost.

Motion: To approve the Professional Services Agreement with Dexter Wilson Engineering, Inc. for Design services for the Gopher Pump Station

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Gasca, Seconded by Member McKesson

Vote: With four votes cast, the motion was carried by a majority, with Members Nelson and Irvine abstaining and Member Johnson opposed. (summary: Ayes =3)

Ayes: Members Gasca, McKesson, Marnett

14. CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT WITH SPECIALTY MOWING SERVICES, INC. FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND BRUSH CLEARING SERVICES AT DISTRICT FACILITIES (DISTRICTWIDE)

Mr. Williams explained that to safely maintain all of the District-owned sites, a licensed contractor is needed to perform weed abatement and brush clearing services. The current practice of requesting these services on an as-needed basis from qualified vendors is cumbersome and not a cost-effective method for procuring the ongoing and necessary work.

The District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to perform chemical and mechanical weed abatement and brush-clearing services at pre-selected sites. Proposals submitted by Specialty Mowing Services, Inc., Powerland Equipment, Inc., and Pest Options, Inc., were evaluated based on the approach to work, firm and team qualifications, and project experience and determined that Specialty Mowing Services, Inc., (SMS) was the most qualified to perform districtwide weed abatement and brush clearing services at a maximum annual cost of \$297,574. Staff proposes a three-year agreement with two one-year optional extensions for a possible total of five years. In addition to the scheduled site maintenance costs, the District requested that potential bidders include an annual not-to-exceed \$40,000 contingency for district-directed weed abatement and brush clearing services not listed for a specific site and has reserved the right to utilize all or none of the contingency.

Mr. Williams reported that funds for the proposed agreement have been allocated in the approved Fiscal Year 24-25 budget in the amount of \$150,000. Each fiscal year (FY) staff will evaluate necessary expenditures and bring the request before the Board for its consideration as part of overall budget approval. In addition to the approved budget for FY 24/25, the District received a CalOES grant in the amount of \$161,840 for these services at specific sites throughout the District. The grant is valid through March 15, 2029. While the \$161,840 from the grant is not shown in the approved budget, the two funding sources are merged and will be charged accordingly.

Motion: To approve Option 1, Recommendation for the Board to Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Specialty Mowing Services, Inc. for districtwide weed abatement and brush clearing services

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Johnson, Seconded by Member McKesson

Vote: Motion carried by majority vote, with Member Irvine abstaining (summary: Ayes = 5)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Johnson, Gasca

15. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Williams introduced Morteza Mirshekari and Bryan Rall with Atlas, who were present at the meeting. He presented information reflecting year one Capital Improvement Projects, approved budget amounts, approved budget amendments, and mid-year adjusted balances. The West Lilac, Rancho Amigos and Dentro De Lomas Pump Stations are complete. Work with an engineering firm is ongoing to complete roof and HVAC upgrades in the Administration Building and to explore the feasibility of a long-term facilities solution of either re-development of the existing site and relocation of District facilities or extending the useful life of existing facilities through significant upgrades. There are three Pressure Reducing Stations to install in areas of high pressure. The Isolation Valve Installation Program is ongoing and will extend several years, and staff requested an additional \$50,000 for this year's work. The Manual Transfer Switches Project is scheduled to be bid in March of this year with hopes for the work to be completed by June. The Camino Del Rey Waterline Relocation project has been delayed due to right of way issues. A portion of that project will be redesigned, and staff will continue to work on right-of-way, easements, and other details with County staff. The budget for this project has not yet been determined. SDCWA Connections 1, 8, 9, and 10 have been acquired, and interim decommissioning for SDCWA Connections 3, 6, 7, and 11 are no longer needed. The previously approved \$200,000 will be allocated elsewhere. The Morro Tank Rehabilitation assessment is ongoing and includes geotechnical, land surveying, and structural engineering firms. Mr. Williams provided the details known about the tank's construction, geologic conditions, and a timeline and

conclusions of investigations of the tank's movement dating back to 1983. The Tank is being monitored and utilized at half of its capacity.

Continuing, Mr. Williams reported on this year's scheduled interconnects, including FPUD Maravilla to RMWD Maravilla, FPUD Olive Hill to RMWD Olive Hill, the La Canada Pipeline Replacement and Pressure Reduction (a two-year project), the Gopher Skid Pump Station, the Water and Wastewater Master Plan, and grant-funding-dependent emergency generators for the Rancho Monserate, Rancho Viejo, and headquarters B-Plants.

To a question about completing the Master Plan in-house, Mr. Wiley explained that a functional hydraulic model of our system is necessary as a key tool for planning and prioritizing projects, which requires special skills outside the expertise of District staff. Also, as part of the Master Plan, the District will review leak data and incorporate asset management, to expand on work already performed by Dexter Wilson. The Master Plan was last updated in 2017, and an updated and more comprehensive Plan is needed.

With the additional funds requested for the Groundwater Study, continued work to evaluate the Morro Tank movement, the Isolation Valve replacements, and the savings realized from the Gopher Canyon Pipeline Replacement Project, and the cancellation of the decommissioning work, Mr. Wiley concluded that the overall mid-year CIP budget adjustment is a reduction of \$335,000.

16. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

There were no questions.

17. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Mr. Wiley relayed that staff will be providing information on the five-year CIP update.

18. ADJOURNMENT - To Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Nelson at 3:30 p.m.



Terese Quintanar, District Secretary



Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson