

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on September 26, 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 Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson, Member Nelson.

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy, Executive Assistant Washburn, Information Technology Manager Khattab, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams.

Absent: Member Brazier.

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Alternate Largent, Operations Manager Gutierrez, Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Analyst Rubio, Administrative Analyst Barrow.

One member of the public was 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**

There were no members of the public in attendance via teleconference or video conference; therefore, the instructions were not read aloud.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

There were no alternates seated.

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

Mr. Williams noted Item #16 was not for a Notice of Completion, but rather an Acceptance of Infrastructure instead.

Discussion returned from Item #11.

Mr. Nelson acknowledged Mr. Gasca needs to leave at approximately 4:30 p.m.; thus, he would like to suggest Items #15 and #16 could be addressed prior to Item #14. There were no objections.

Discussion went to Item #15.

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

There were no comments.

***8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 2, 2023

Motion:

To accept the minutes.

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

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

Ayes: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson, Member Nelson.

Absent: Member Brazier.

9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy announced this would be his last Engineering and Operations Committee meeting as RMWD's General Manager due to his upcoming retirement. He expressed appreciation to all the committee members for all they have given.

Mr. Kennedy referenced the SDCWA lawsuit documents with which RMWD was recently served. He noted at the August Board meeting, the Board authorized RMWD's general counsel to prepare some counter litigation against SDCWA which is intended to help encourage SDCWA that this was a path RMWD would prefer not to take.

Mr. Kennedy reported AB399 was just passed by the Senate, but it took three rounds of votes to reach this decision. He explained this matter will now go to the Assembly Local Government Committee at which time another attempt will be made to block it. He pointed out when AB399 came out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the urgency clause was dropped which in turn means, this bill will not take effect until after the November election. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to who, other than Legal Counsel, had read the documents RMWD was served related to the SDCWA lawsuit. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Gasca stated they both had read the first 58 pages noting this was new information and the remaining pages contained backup documentation which had been reviewed previously when initially circulated.

Mr. Nelson asked whether Alchemy Consulting Group was assisting RMWD in the legislature. Mr. Kennedy stated Mr. Brown was assisting RMWD with facilitating the application process, not in the state legislature. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Nelson to Mr. Kennedy that he appreciates his service and the things he has done.

Mr. Marnett inquired as to pending new general manager's background. Mr. Kennedy stated he is a licensed civil engineer who served as the assistant general manager of engineering and operations at Rancho California Water District. Mr. Gasca added there was an ad-hoc committee formed to work through the numerous applications received in response to the job announcement. Mr. Kennedy recognized Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Largent as excellent internal candidates for this position although neither were selected.

10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Williams reported staff has been working diligently over the past 1½-2 years on the Rancho Amigos, West Lilac and Dentro de Lomas pump station project and how the bid opening will take place on October 5, 2023, following which the Board will consider awarding the contract in October.

11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez reported 244 of the 540 on the original meter exchange list have been completed. He noted the warranty repairs on North River Road are expected to be scheduled next week as well as provided details related to the fires and main line break that took place on August 11, 2023, as well as the tropical storm activity anticipated in late August and how the emergency response community took precautionary actions.

Mr. Gasca inquired as to whether there was a means of providing RMWD Board and committee members with a list of worksites and projects within each of the divisions so that they would be able to better communicate with the members of the public. Mr. Gutierrez explained crews put out schedules on Sundays for the upcoming week if this would suffice. Mr. Gasca agreed a weekly basis would be great.

Discussion returned to Item #6.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Marnett stated considering the new transmitters and antennas being installed at the Hutton Tank, he wanted to be sure RMWD was requiring the builder to measure the RF at this home as well as his neighbor's home once Dish completes the installation. he wanted to be sure RMWD requires the builder to measure the RF at his home as well as his neighbor's house once Dish completes the installation of the cell towers. Mr. Gutierrez stated he has just emailed Mr. Marnett all the paperwork related to the project for his review. Mr. Marnett stated he wanted to make this requirement more official. Mr. Kennedy pointed out caution would need to be exercised due to the location being within 500' of his home that RMWD's Administrative Code does not allow Mr. Marnett to weigh in on this due to potential conflicts of interest. Mr. Marnett stated he will be measuring the RF himself anyways.

Mr. Nelson asked whether the corrections to be made to the North River Road warranty work is related to the lining RMWD conducted or the manhole project. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed it was the lining noting what had occurred and what still needs to take place. Discussion followed.

Discussion went to Item #13.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams noted the Board approved all three engineering action items. Discussions followed.

Discussion went to Item #14.

14. PRESENTATION ON DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT MICROPLASTICS AND NEW DPR REGULATIONS (ENGINEERING/OPERATIONS/GENERAL MANAGER)

Mr. Kennedy introduced Brent Alspach, Vice President and Director of Applied Research for Arcadis, noting Mr. Alspach performs some of the higher-level research in the engineering field related to existing and new technologies. He said he invited Mr. Alspach to speak to the committee on this topic.

Mr. Alspach stated because the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) regulations were currently in draft format, he will spend more time speaking about microplastics. He proceeded with his presentation titled “WRF 5155: Developing Strategic Consumer Messaging for Microplastics in Drinking Water”.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether the recent concerns related to microplastics were more about whether they are harmful. Discussion ensued.

Member Gasca excused himself from the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Alspach continued with the presentation, noting RMWD will receive a report with all the information soon.

Discussions ensued.

Mr. Marnett inquired as to whether there was a clearinghouse where more information could be found related to microplastics. Mr. Asphalt offered to send a link to Mr. Kennedy to share with the committee members.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any other things in the water like microplastics where we know it is there but have no idea whether they are harmful or not that has been the subject of the media. Mr. Alspach stated not to his knowledge. Discussion followed.

Discussion went to Item #17.

***15. NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RMWD WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – WATER AND MAIN SERVICE LOCATIONS (DIVISION 5) (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams reported this project was 100% complete; thus, the staff was seeking a recommendation from the committee that the Board accept the Water Quality Improvement Project.

Motion:

That the Board accept staff’s recommendation Option 1 - Accept the Rainbow Water Quality Improvement Project – Water Mains and Service Relocation improvements as complete and as shown on the approved plans, approve Filing the Notice of Completion, add installation costs of \$998,141.39 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 McKesson.

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

Ayes: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson, Member Nelson.

Absent: Member Brazier.

Discussion went to Item #16.

***16. ACCEPTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RICE CANYON TRANSMISSION MAIN PROJECT (DIVISIONS 4 AND 5) (ENGINEERING)**

(The title for this item was revised as noted in Item #6.)

Mr. Williams reported this project was complete, noting there was a pressure reducing station installed at the bottom to assist with breaking the pressure buildup. He noted this project was not typical with some unusual challenges to be worked through. He noted the one-year warranty was advanced when RMWD signed the Notice of Substantial Completion as noted in the draft Board memo provided.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out this was an important pipeline in that it now provides RMWD with the ability to move water from Connection 10 as well as improve Rice Canyon Tank's water quality.

Discussion ensued regarding the payment of installation costs totaling approximately \$5.5M

Motion:

That the Board accept staff's recommendation Option 1 - Accept the Rice Canyon Transmission Main improvements as complete and as shown on the approved plans, add installation costs of \$5,582,373.24 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 McKesson, Seconded by Member Marnett.

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

Ayes: Member Gasca, Member Marnett, Member McKesson, Member Nelson.

Absent: Member Brazier.

Discussion went to Item #12.

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

Mr. Williams confirmed there were five items added to the list. Discussion followed.

Discussion went to Item #18.

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

It was noted engineering will provide a list of topics for the October agenda.

Discussion went to Item #19.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary