

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
AUGUST 5, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on August 5, 2025, 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, Smith

Also Present: Chief Operations Officer Gutierrez, Deputy Operations Officer Coffey, District Secretary Quintanar, Information Technology Manager Khattab, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams, Finance Manager Shilkov, Administrative Analyst Weber

Absent: Johnson, Gasca

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Assistant Montano, Administrative Analyst II Barrow, Safety and Risk Officer Johnson

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

No alternates were seated.

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

There were no changes requested.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion: To approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes =5)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Irvine, Smith

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 3, 2025

Motion: To approve the June 3, 2025, Meeting minutes.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes = 5)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Irvine, Smith

9. COMMENTS & REQUESTS

Chief Operations Officer Gutierrez and Engineering and CIP Manager Williams, reported on the repair progress of the NN Pipeline (Highway 76). Operations staff has installed a temporary PVC pipe and pressure testing is underway. A video was displayed, and Mr. Gutierrez reported that a restrainer was being assembled and careful attention is being given to this work at every joint along the approximate 1,000 feet of pipe. Bacteriological testing will be done by Babcock Laboratories, and when the test results are negative, both ends of the pipe can be connected. Hazen and Sawyer is assisting the orchestration of this emergency repair effort and meeting with staff weekly. The goal is to have design documents completed, then to request contractor's bids for the repairs 18 feet under Highway 76. Once the temporary highline is on-line, the Dentro De Lomas Pump Station will be utilized at its capacity to provide water supply. As of June 30th, there is approximately \$375,000 remaining of the \$500,000 approved funding for the project. The District had most of the pipe and fittings for the repair on hand. Hazen has been tasked to determine if the cause of the break was faulty pipe or faulty installation. There has been no settlement of the road, thus far, and staff is working with Caltrans, the County of San Diego to coordinate as well. Discussion followed regarding materials, methods, and documentation.

Member Marnett reported that Specialty Mowing cut down the tree and removed the debris near his residence, and did a very good job.

10. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported on items approved by the Board of Directors at the July 22, 2025 meeting, including amendments to Fees for Service and associated revisions to the Administrative Code.

11. CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT WITH HOCH CONSULTING FOR THE WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLANS PROJECT AND A PROJECT BUDGET INCREASE (DISTRICTWIDE)

Mr. Williams reported that the Master Plans have been planned for in the CIP Budget for quite a while. Typically, these plans are updated every five years. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in April and received good response, with the receipt of four proposals, and three of the firms were interviewed. Staff's decision was unanimous to select Hoch Consulting, as theirs was the most innovative and at a good price. A Fire Flow Analysis for \$7,700, and the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) Update for \$66,900 are two alternatives offered for addition to the master plan work. Without these two additional alternatives, Hoch Consulting's bid was \$794,511, Ardurra Group's bid was \$1,096,963, Watearth's bid was \$937,435, ERSC's bid was \$635,140. ERSC's proposal lacked due diligence.

Member Smith expressed surprise that the Master Plans had not been updated earlier. He noted that the existing hydraulic model is outdated and emphasized the importance of staff being actively involved in the planning process and in applying the final Plans. He highlighted the critical role the Master Plans play in guiding the Board's decision-making and urged staff to request that the consultant include a risk assessment component. Additionally, he stressed the need to address water supply considerations with a specific focus on the Metropolitan Water District, not solely the Eastern Municipal Water District, and pointed out that the Master Plan RFP and Hoch's proposal lacked discussion on demand forecasting and the relationship between water pricing and sales.

Chairman Nelson acknowledged that Mr. Wiley is aware of his concerns, particularly that the process could become a platform for advocating for capital projects that may not be essential to the District. He mentioned his previous discomfort with some of Hoch's recommendations, encouraged staff to remain vigilant to ensure the project stays aligned with the District's priorities, and questioned the high cost associated with this planning effort.

Member Smith reiterated that key elements were missing from the proposal and stated his intention to abstain from voting on the item due to insufficient information regarding the consultant scoring criteria.

Member Irvine voiced reservations, referencing Chairman Nelson's prior comments about concerns with Hoch's previous work. Chairman Nelson added that, given Hoch's extensive involvement in past projects, he would have preferred a fresh perspective for this effort—even if it came at a higher cost. Mr. Smith expressed his agreement.

Motion: To approve Option 1: Approval of a PSA with Hoch Consulting for a not-to-exceed amount of \$869,181, authorization for the General Manager to execute the agreement, and approval of a budget increase of \$100,000 .

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

Vote: Motion carried by majority with Irvine and Smith abstaining (summary: Ayes = 3)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson

12. NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINOR FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED BY CUSTOMERS (DISTRICTWIDE)

This is for acceptance of the installation of a Fire Hydrant at 4371 S. Mission Road Fallbrook, CA 92028 constructed by Draves Pipeline, Inc.

Motion: to approve Option 1: Acceptance of appurtenances constructed by customers as complete and as shown on the District's Standard Drawings, approval to file the Notice of Completion, add installation costs to the District's total valuation for \$34,782, for the installation of a Fire Hydrant at 4371 S. Mission Road Fallbrook, CA 92028 constructed by Draves Pipeline, Inc., and to 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

Motion carried by majority with Irvine and Smith abstaining (summary: Ayes = 3)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson

13. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY


Mr. Williams explained that bird nesting season is upon us, requiring biological surveys prior to Specialty Mowing Services conducting weed abatement services, as contracted. Member Smith inquired about the purpose of on-call real estate services and Mr. Williams explained that they provided appraisal services in 2023 for surplus land that the Board ultimately decided not to sell.

Mr. Smith also inquired about the purpose of the Return Flow Study for the San Luis Rey Basin and expressed concerns with doing so. He urged for future attention to water rights in the adjudicated basin. Future discussion of the details of this matter would be required, as the subject was not listed on the agenda.

14. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting agenda will include updates on State and federal grants, as well as the status of obtaining backup generators for all of RMWD's pump stations.

15. ADJOURNMENT - *The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Nelson at 2:04 p.m.*



Terese Quintanar, District Secretary



Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson