

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
MAY 5, 2021**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on May 5, 2021 was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. *(Due to COVID restrictions the meetings are being held virtually.)* Chairperson Nelson presiding.

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- 3. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Member Brazier *(via teleconference)*, Member Marnett *(via teleconference)*, Member Nelson, Member Gasca *(via video conference)*, Alternate Largent *(via video conference)*.

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

**Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:**

Operations Manager Gutierrez, Executive Assistant Washburn, Associate Engineer Powers, Project Manager Tamimi, Engineering Technician Rubio, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Lagunas.

Three members of the public were present via teleconference or video teleconference.

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

Mr. Nelson read aloud the instructions for those attending the meeting via teleconference or video conference.

- 5. SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Ms. Largent was seated as an alternate.

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

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

There were no comments.

**\*8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. April 7, 2021**

***Motion:***

***To approve the minutes.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Marnett, Seconded by Member Gasca.***

***Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 5).***

***Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Gasca, Alternate Largent.***

**9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kennedy reported LAFCO met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to consider RMWD's application for the annexation of the Meadowood (now called Citro) development which was approved unanimously. He noted the development would officially become a part of RMWD by the end of the month. He added this will allow RMWD to complete the formation of the Community Facilities District which will deliver approximately \$16 million in connection revenue over the next couple of years with \$10 million being for wastewater.

Mr. Kennedy stated after receiving guidance from the California Department of Health, RMWD was permitted to conduct indoor meetings with individuals who have been fully vaccinated without requiring the use of masks while remaining socially distanced. He mentioned CalOSHA was scheduled to meet later this month to make similar changes.

**10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Williams stated staff continues to work on both the Turner and Hutton pump stations with design anticipated to be 30% complete for each station in the next 5-6 weeks. He noted the Rainbow Heights Pump Station expects to be commissioned in late June as well as the District met onsite with the County of San Diego and worked out details related to the Dentro de Lomas Pump Station in preparation of the overlay project. He provided an update on the two Morro Reservoir projects, North River Road Phase II and Phase III projects, as well as the Quiet Title Action related to the headquarters development.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to which consulting was doing the design for Hutton. Mr. Williams answered it was Hoch which was not under an as-needed contract.

**11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Gutierrez reported crews finished washing out the inside of the Rainbow Hills Reservoir. He also mentioned crews were in the process of completing the installation of approximately 1,800 square feet of watermain utilizing internal staff as opposed to outsourcing the project noting a comprehensive report will be presented to the committee in June.

**12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

### **13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES**

Mr. Williams reported the Board received the PEIR presentation, authorized the General Manager to execute the necessary purchase orders for the Community Power Resiliency Project as well as a Construction Agreement with Sancon Technologies for North River Road Phase III, approved a Participation Agreement for the design, construction, and funding portions of the Rice Canyon Tank transmission line and facilities, and discussed the backflow testing matter.

### **14. PRESENTATION ON THE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN/WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN BY BROWN & CALDWELL (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams shared a presentation on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan noting this plan is required to be updated every five years. He noted Brown & Caldwell was contracted to assist with this project in July 2020. He explained both the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Urban Water Management Plan to the Board for consideration. He introduced JP Semper who will be sharing a presentation on both of these plans.

Mr. Semper gave a presentation on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan update including a summary, historical background, some highlights, and the steps involved.

Discussion ensued regarding RMWD's current and decreasing water demand trends.

Mr. Nelson asked for clarification that if Easter Municipal Water District (EMWD) has a set of investments to ensure there is adequate water supply for increasing development and whether there is a process by which they would allocate cost recovery for which RMWD would end up participating in paying. Mr. Kennedy explained under the agreement between EMWD and RMWD would strictly receive water from Metropolitan Water District delivered through EMWD; however, would have the option to buy into a local supply project should RMWD wish to increase its reliability for some reason in the future. Mr. Gasca pointed out developments in and around Temecula are serviced by a retailer, Rancho Water District; therefore, Rancho would be the one to deal with that development and any costs associated with such, not necessarily EMWD.

Mr. Gasca asked for clarification as to the requirement for a 20% reduction in per capita and by 2020 and whether RMWD met the target of 1,202 GPCD. Mr. Kennedy confirmed RMWD has already met the target. Mr. Gasca inquired as to whether RMWD has banked the delta so if there was an additional requirement for reduction from the State that RMWD could ignore. Mr. Kennedy stated the 585 GCPC was an outlier provided by the State with which every water district throughout California was currently wrestling after receiving the data.

Mr. Williams stated staff recently met with several local agencies to coordinate together to assist Sacramento in understanding how districts can have agriculture and residential on one parcel.

Discussion ensued regarding Page 16 of the presentation.

Mr. Semper continued with the presentation reviewing the dry-year supply reliability as well as the overall supply reliability noting the verifiable supplies are adequate to serve existing and planned demands over the next twenty years for both normal and dry years.

Mr. Gasca stated assuming RMWD's detachment from SDCWA is successful, would RMWD need to repeat this process again. Mr. Kennedy stated not until 2025.

Mr. Kennedy solicited the committee for feedback in terms of how to best communicate this information to the public. Mr. Nelson suggested leading with the most powerful topic and then provided follow up information related to such.

Mr. Marnett pointed out he experienced a 100 to 1 reduction in water use after he removed the trees from his property.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to when the Board would vote on approving these plans. Mr. Kennedy stated the Board does have to approve these; however, it could be in May or June.

Mr. Nelson polled the committee as to whether a vote should be taken to make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Gasca stated he would prefer making a recommendation for Board approval only after the committee members had an opportunity to review the plans in draft form. Mr. Williams suggested noting and informational report was made to the committee and any recommendations received have been implemented into the presentation being provided to the Board.

## **15. SCADA PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION PROJECT (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams reported staff received three proposals for this project noting four members, one consultant, and one committee members participated in providing scoring. Mr. Marnett requested a summary of the scoring results and Ms. Washburn offered to email out to the committee members right away. Mr. Williams shared the scoring results and Mr. Kennedy suggested possibly inviting those who scored close be invited to participate in a panel meeting.

Mr. Marnett expressed concern the procurement was completely and essentially unfair with one buyer knowing exactly what is contained in all the software and the others knowing nothing which never should have been allowed. He stated if Vertex were to be provided with the Code, they would have an opportunity to decide whether they could lower their bid amount. He said he found Vertex to be a much stronger team and how relying on a three-person company for the next ten years could be a grave mistake. Mr. Khattab explained staff did not request those remitting the proposal to share how they would implement the Code; however, in the event panel interviews are conducted this would provide an opportunity to share the Code with those being interviewed. Mr. Marnett agreed with this suggestion noting it was unfair to be scored on something they did not have privy to. Mr. Gasca pointed out if RMWD does not provide the Code, there could be a basis for challenging the award.

Mr. Nelson stated although he had a number of issues and conflicting thoughts regarding this project, he has tremendous trust in staff who must consider what would or would not work. He said he favored Vertex; therefore, the idea of bringing them back in for some discussion may be beneficial.

Mr. Kennedy agreed with holding interviews with the two leading firms to answer questions staff would tailor for each. He confirmed these interviews would be held via Zoom, invited committee members interested in volunteering to attend, and could be conducted prior in time to be presented to the Board in May for consideration.

Mr. Marnett encouraged everyone to think about how this would be supported for the next fifteen years, especially with a three-person company and whether they will be able to continue to provide the required support. Ms. Brazier suggested perhaps familiarity should not put a thumb on the scale. Mr. Gasca added if a committee member were to participate in the interviews, he would support the decision made.

**16. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY POWER RESILIENCY PROJECT (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Kennedy announced the deadline for spending the funds received has been extended to March 2022.

**17. UPDATE ON MORRO MIXER INSTALLATION (OPERATIONS/ENGINEERING)**

This updated was provided under Item #10.

**18. UPDATE ON PRESSURE REDUCING STATIONS (OPERATIONS/ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Gutierrez reported for 2021, in-house staff has installed four pressure reducing stations and was on pace to complete a total of ten by the end of the year. He said keeping on this pace, staff expects to have another ten installed in 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding inventory and starting another round of procurement.

Mr. Gasca requested a map showing where the Pala Lake North and Pala Lake South stations would be installed.

Mr. Marnett asked for the total number of stations anticipated to be installed over the next few years. Mr. Kennedy answered approximately 60-70 as well as confirmed these were included in the budget.

**\*19. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY (ENGINEERING)**

Discussion ensued regarding the one new engagement listed.

**20. WATER SERVICE UPGRADE PROJECT (WSUP) PROGRAM UPDATE (OPERATIONS)**

Mr. Gutierrez announced the project was 50% complete. He noted inventory has been taken to ensure enough supplies were readily available. He mentioned an idea the crew members innovated to assist with accessing meter boxes without having to ask customers to relocate their vehicles.

Mr. Marnett asked if crews were concentrating on 3/4" and 1" meters. Mr. Gutierrez stated they were working on all size meters. Mr. Kennedy added staff was working on the 3" meters due to the fact these require more work and Concord was working on 2" and less meters.

**21. BACKFLOW CHARGE INVESTIGATION PROCESS UPDATE**

Mr. Kennedy explained the refund concept was presented to the Board who in turn granted approval. He noted staff will now work with the Communications and Customer Service Committee in terms of how to best communicate what transpired to the customers starting in June. He confirmed the refunds will be issued in the form of bill credits.

Mr. Nelson applauded Mr. Khattab for working diligently to surface and present information in a manner in which staff and the Board could make informed decisions. Ms. Brazier and Mr. Gasca agreed with Mr. Nelson.

**22. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. Gasca requested for a brief write-up on what each committee does be provided to him to share with a local community group in hopes of generating some interest. Ms. Washburn offered to share the information contained in the Administrative Code.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether the current committee members have changed their mind regarding serving as Committee Vice Chairperson. Ms. Brazier stated she has not. Mr. Marnett recommended this item be deferred until a later date when the District reopens for in-person meetings.

**23. DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLY CHANGING THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING START TIME**

Mr. Gasca recommended changing the meeting date as opposed to the start time. He noted his schedule generally clears up closer to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Nelson solicited for input from the committee regarding changing the start time to 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. It was decided to start the June committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. as a trial.

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

It was noted the As-Needed Expenditures, a WSUP update, appointment of Vice Chairperson, changing the meeting start time, and Request for Proposal discussion should be on the next committee agenda.

**25. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.*

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

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**Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson**

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**Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary**