

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
JANUARY 7, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on January 7, 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, and Gasca

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

Also Present In-Person, Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

Safety & Risk Management Officer Johnson Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Assistant Montano, and Administrative Services Manager Harp

Julie Johnson was present.

4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

No alternates were seated.

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

There were no changes.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion:

To approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes = 4)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, and Gasca

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public were in attendance.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. December 3, 2024

Motion:

To approve the December 3, 2024 Minutes as presented.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes = 4)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, and 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

Mr. Wiley reported on a significant wind event taking place, and the expectation for power outages for which staff is preparing. Also, we have received the funding for the SDCWA Exit Fee and will be putting \$3.1M back into reserves and wiring the \$12.6M balance of the Exit Fee to the SDCWA by the end of the month. The District received its first bill from EMWD for deliveries in November for 974-acre feet (AF), which is the average for November, and we expect similar sales for December. Southern California has experienced a dry year so far, but there has been a good amount of rainfall in the Northern portion of the State. \$140M in funding was approved by MWD for the Delta Conveyance Project to finish the planning activities, geotechnical exploration, permitting, and related supportive physical work. Despite controversy, the Governor is pushing to move the project forward, with the goal to be fully entitled by the end of 2026.

Water fluoridation is a topic of a recent ruling and is under review by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A brief discussion followed, and Mr. Wiley concluded his report by relaying that staff is finalizing the mid-year budget, which will be presented for review by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Mr. Williams reported on the Atlas Geotech Report on the Morro Tank Subsidence, and staff will report back to the Committee shortly. The three new pump stations are operating well, Rainbow WWD is officially detached from the SDCWA, and staff is working to finalize pump station punch list items. The Rancho Amigos site's generator's load bank has an additional load that was not included in the original design, which may result in a change order.

Mr. Williams continued that an all-encompassing RFP has been issued for district-wide weed abatement. Two non-mandatory site walks are scheduled for December, and staff plans to present this matter for the Board's consideration in the next month or two. CalOES awarded grant funds of approximately \$160,000 and staff budgeted an additional \$250,000 for this contract. The submittal date has been extended to January 16, 2025, and staff is hoping to present this item for Board approval in February. Mr. Williams will confirm for the Committee the estimated costs for this year and subsequent years.

He also reported that the Manual Transfer Switches Project is moving forward and two of the five sites have been completed, both under \$35,000. For the remainder, drawings are being updated, and the engineer's estimate will need to be updated. Should the costs increase, there is the option to defer some of the work.

Mr. Gutierrez mentioned the Cyber Security Grant of approximately \$179,000, obtained by Mr. Khattab. Mr. Wiley added that it was a very good and successful grant proposal, with great initiatives. Mr. Gutierrez reported on several main breaks within the District's Division 3. They were unrelated and in an area fed by Morro Reservoir, and the repairs were made in-house. He

continued that the District was notified by SDG&E on Saturday of a planned Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). SDG&E predicted the need to de-energize several areas, affecting our facilities near Gird Road. In response, staff has filled water storage tanks that supply the affected area. The prediction is that the Santa Ana winds will be severe, similar to what was experienced in 2017, and could extend through Monday. Discussion followed regarding operational protocol and preparedness. Member Gasca expressed an offer to help disseminate the information via Nextdoor.

Member Marnett mentioned cell equipment work at Morro Tank, and their representative indicated that it would be representative of Boost Mobile, not Dish Network, and the crew would be back out to test the radiation levels from the new equipment. Upon Member Marnett's cursory assessment, the level was about four times higher than previous readings.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Julie Johnson said it would be an honor to serve on the Committee once again. Chairman Nelson expressed his support and hopes for strong members to also join the Budget and Finance Committee.

Motion:

To approve the Board's appointment of Julie Johnson as a member of the Engineering and Operations Committee.

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

Vote: Motion carried unanimously (summary: Ayes = 4)

Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, and Gasca

11. COMPLETION OF THE GOPHER CANYON EMERGENCY PIPELINE REPLACEMENT AND PAVING RESTORATION PROJECT (DIVISION 1)

Mr. Guterrez provided background and reported that the work was completed under budget. He provided photos and details of the work entailed. Three new employees received on-site training during the repairs. Total project costs were approximately \$275,000 and all but the traffic control work was done in-house.

12. REVIEW OF INACTIVE GROUNDWATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Wiley provided a summary of three District wells that run next to San Luis Rey River. The summary is available on the District's website. The latest known correspondence, a 2003 letter from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding native water rights, was presented for reference. In the past, the District submitted multiple applications for direct diversion from the Bonsall Basin of 7.2 cfs, with a max of 3,000 AF annually. The letter concluded that Rainbow's application of the late 1970's/early 1980's was defective. Approval would have entailed extensive study concluding that water was available, full mitigation of environmental impacts, and all resolution of all challenges from both upstream and downstream water rights holders.

In 2016, with the help of West Yost, the District completed a comprehensive study on the capture of return flows, which is water imported to the area by Rainbow MWD with some returning to the groundwater basin. Correspondence was exchanged with the upstream tribal users, who acknowledged the existence of flow rights and requested monitoring wells to determine impacts.

A 2023 Study provided a detailed analysis of the return flow analysis and estimated lower return flows, with a 2.5mgd capacity. Alternatives were again reviewed by the Board, along with brine

line options, estimated capital costs, and partnering opportunities. Capital costs associated with the options were approximately \$78-\$86M for a cost of \$2,100-\$3,000 per acre-foot. At the September 2023 Board Meeting, the Board provided direction to staff to not advance major activities at that time.

The Feasibility Study was completed and the draft is currently under preliminary review by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). Once finalized, the Study can be submitted to the USBR to improve the District's position for Federal Funding.

Member Gasca thanked Mr. Wiley for the consolidated summary and follow-up and commented on the importance of reviewing this topic periodically.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Gutierrez reported that he had just received a notification of a possible power interruption at the Magee Tank and Magee Pump Station. Mr. Wiley summarized the Board actions of December 10, 2024.

14. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

There were no questions.

15. SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Director Townsend-Smith relayed a conversation with Horse Creek HOA Manager Jeff Baker, who mentioned that D.R. Horton had installed piping for recycled water. Mr. Wiley and Mr. Williams answered that they had been communicating and that the developer installed the purple pipe as a proactive measure, should recycled water become available in the future.

The mid-year budget for CIP will be presented next month.

16. ADJOURNMENT - To Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Nelson at 2:33 p.m.



Terese Quintanar, District Secretary



Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson