

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
AUGUST 6, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on August 6, 2024 was called to order by Member Nelson at 1:02 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:** Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, Dale, and Gasca (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, Member Gasca participated remotely from 541 Moran Street, Reno, NV 89502, which was accessible to the public.)

**Also Present:** General Manager Wiley, Operations Manager Gutierrez, District Secretary Quintanar, Construction and Meters Supervisor Lagunas, Information Technology Manager Khattab, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams, and Chief Financial Officer Aragon

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

Senior Project Manager Tamimi, Administrative Analyst Barrow,  
Administrative Assistant Montano, Administrative Services Manager Harp

No members of the public were present in person, via teleconference or video conference.

4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

No alternates were seated.

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

General Manager Wiley requested the addition of an item to the agenda to address consideration of emergency pipeline replacement in Gopher Canyon Road. This matter became known to staff subsequent to the posting of the agenda, and immediate attention was necessary.

Chairperson Nelson also requested rearrangement of the numbering on the agenda.

**Motion:**

**To add an item titled “Consideration of Emergency Pipeline Replacement in Gopher Canyon Road” to the agenda.**

**Action: Approve, Moved by Member Nelson, Seconded by Member Dale**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Ayes = 3)**

**Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, and Dale**

**6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

(Member McKesson joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.)

***Motion:***

***To approve the Agenda as amended, with rearranged order of items.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Nelson, Seconded by Member Dale***

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

***Ayes: Members Nelson, Marnett, McKesson, and Dale***

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public present and no requests to comment.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 1, 2024

***Motion:***

***To approve the minutes as presented.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Dale, Seconded by Member McKesson***

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

***Ayes: Members McKesson, Nelson, Marnett, and Dale***

**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

(Member Gasca joined the meeting remotely at 1:14 p.m.)

Mr. Wiley reported that construction of the three pump stations is maintaining good momentum, and that the County Water Authority approved a 14 percent increase for this year and a 16 percent increase next year. The Metropolitan Water District increases will be far less impactful.

Mr. Williams added to Mr. Wiley's report that the Thoroughbred Lift Station Ribbon Cutting event will be held on September 4, 2024, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Gutierrez exhibited a piece of pipe of the type installed under Highway 76 and provided a general update on operations.

**10. BOARD ACTION UPDATES**

Mr. Williams provided a summary of Board actions in July.

**11. CONSIDER EMERGENCY PIPELINE REPLACEMENT ON GOPHER CANYON ROAD**

Mr. Lagunas reported on a main break on Gopher Canyon Road, and the resulting damage requiring substantial asphalt repair. The location of the damage is near the main entrance of the new Bonsall Oaks housing development, not in the immediate vicinity of work being done by a contractor. The PSI in that area is approximately 270, and the pipe has signs of deterioration. A new 3-4 foot section of pipe was installed to repair the leak, but upon further investigation, a "seeper" was found, indicating a vulnerability for future leaks. He recommended in-house

replacement of approximately 360 feet of pipe. In addition, he recommended upsizing the pipe from 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter. Doing so is an opportunity to achieve multiple operational benefits, as well as potential future savings. Anticipated cost of supplies for the replacement of this segment of pipe is approximately \$75,000, in addition to paving costs. No road closure would be needed, and staff estimates the work to take one month or less.

Mr. Aragon provided information about funding methods, and discussion followed regarding pipe type, agency coordination, residential consideration, and the timing of the work. A mid-year budget review will be done to adjust Capital Improvement Project timing and funding, if needed.

***Motion:***

***To recommend Board approval of the emergency pipeline repair on Gopher Canyon Road as a capital improvement project, with the potential to reimburse ourselves through loan funds, and a mid-year review and possible reassessment of Capital Improvement Projects***

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

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

***Ayes: Members McKesson, Nelson, Marnett, Dale, and Gasca***

**12. POST WSUP PROJECT UPDATE (Previously Item No. 15)**

Mr. Gutierrez provided an update on the Water Service Upgrade Project. Over 741 broken meters have been replaced and there are 150 left. Meters registering zero or less than actual use are flagged for replacement. Staff will focus on installation of the 1.5-inch and 2-inch meter replacements over the next few months. Expenses to date for these staff-installed meters is approximately \$425,000. Discussion followed regarding the initial planning and overall costs, recuperation of costs, water loss reduction and industry standards, and compliance with regulations. Staff will provide details on the results of this project at a later date.

**13. DISCUSS TERMINATION OF ALL AGREEMENTS WITH UTILITY SERVICES GROUP (Previously Item No. 11)**

Mr. Wiley reported on the Tank Asset Management Program and the existing contract for tank maintenance. The District maintains twelve steel tanks and one concrete tank. In 2003, a contract was entered into with Utility Services Group, which included significant work in the first few years. The contract was amended in 2018 and in 2020 to include safety and electrical improvements, which were completed. The contract automatically renews each December, for a cost of \$710,000 per year for tank inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation, along with a 5 percent escalation. Exterior recoating is done every 10-12 years and costs between \$100,000 and \$300,000. Recoating is expensive, can be difficult, and requires specific skills and equipment. Mr. Wiley shared various photos and, although maintenance has been completed satisfactorily by the Utility Services Group, he proposed cancellation of the contract and the allocation of the tank maintenance work to in-house staff. Doing so would enable staff to schedule the maintenance work when most convenient, operationally. Another benefit is that we will have more consistent oversight on the condition and needs of our tanks, and exterior and interior recoating can be scheduled when deemed necessary. The annual renewal of the contract would result in the cost of \$3.2M, although no interior recoating is planned for this year. Lengthy discussion followed regarding impacts to staff taking on this work, items for future contract negotiation, required notification for non-renewal, potential savings, and future outside-contracted inspection and/or recoating services.

**Motion:**

**To approve amended Option 1; authorizing the notice of termination of the tank maintenance contract and addenda with USG Water Solutions, instructing three Board members to sign the notice of termination, authorizing the District to pay out the remaining balances on the 2018 and 2020 Addenda, and the remaining balance on the Pala Mesa Maintenance Agreement for an amount not-to-exceed the current balance of \$786,561, as well as directing staff to attempt to renegotiate a more suitable contract, and to complete a comparison of costs of bringing the services in-house.**

**Action: Approve, Moved by Member Dale, Seconded by Member Marnett**

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

**Ayes: Members McKesson, Nelson, Marnett, Dale, and Gasca**

**14. DISCUSS AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8.11.010 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – CONNECTION AND METER CHARGES**

Mr. Wiley explained the Administrative Code defines the general requirements of cancellation of water service, and staff's recommendation for clarifying and strengthening language in two sections, regarding requirements to remove connections to the main, and meter downsizing. Discussion ensued regarding fire flow fees, downsizing, physical versus virtual downsizing, and the future removal of references to the San Diego County Water Authority.

**Motion:**

**To Approve Option 2, recommending Board adoption of the ordinance amending Section 8.11.010 of the Administrative Code, with the addition of the removal of the references to the SDCWA**

**Action: Approve, Moved by Member Dale, Seconded by Member McKesson**

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

**Ayes: Members McKesson, Nelson, Marnett, Dale, and Gasca**

**15. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

This presentation was postponed to September 3, 2024.

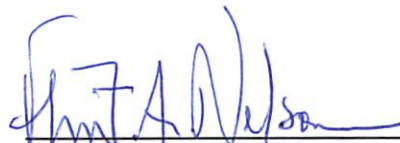
**16. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

There were no questions regarding the information included in the packet.

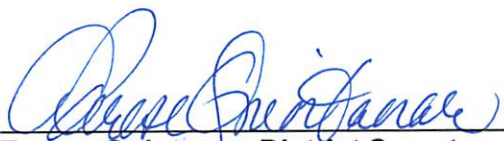
**17. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The Capital Improvement Project Update will be presented next month.

**18. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned by Member Nelson at 3:42 p.m. to Tuesday, September 3, at 1:00 p.m.**



Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson



Terese Quintanar, District Secretary