

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

Approved

Engineering Committee

September 11, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Engineering Committee was held on September 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in-person and via teleconferencing from the Administrative Offices located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California. The following members of the Engineering Committee were present:

MARK McAVOY
MIKE DUNBAR
HANNAH FORD
LINDSAY LEAHY
MARC SERNA

City of Laguna Beach
Emerald Bay Service District
El Toro Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
South Coast Water District

Absent:

DAVE REBENS DORF

City of San Clemente

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE
RONI GRANT
JIM BURROR
BOB CULVER
ANNA SUTHERLAND
SEAN JARDIN
MATT CLARKE
DANITA HIRSH

General Manager
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager
Deputy GM/Chief Engineer
Environment Service Manager
Staff Accountant
Interim Chief Operator
Chief Technology Officer
Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Also Present:

ROD WOODS
TARYN KJOLSING
CHRIS NEWTON

Moulton Niguel Water District
South Coast Water District
South Coast Water District

1. Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Roni Grant, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Approval of Committee Member Request for Remote Participation (Standing Item)

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Engineering Committee Minutes of June 12, 2025.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Mr. Dunbar and seconded by Ms. Ford to approve the Engineering Committee Minutes for June 12, 2025.

Motion carried:	Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Mr. McAvoy	Aye
Ms. Ford	Aye
Mr. Dunbar	Aye
Ms. Leahy	Aye
Mr. Serna	Aye
Mr. Rebensdorf	Absent

5. General Manager's Status Report (Bylaws Update)

An open discussion ensued regarding the consideration of reducing the number of Committee seats from six to four (similar to the Finance Committee) due to most projects being related to PC 2 and PC 15. However, feedback and legal review suggested maintaining the current structure.

The Engineering Committee reached a consensus to maintain the Engineering Committee's existing structure.

6. FY 24-25 Use Audit Flows and Solids

An open discussion ensued regarding a routine review of flows and solids data as part of the audit process. The raw data was shared with agencies to provide transparency and allow them to verify their own figures before being presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Ms. Leahy and seconded by Mr. Dunbar to approve the calculated results of the Use Audit for FY 24-25, including the disbursement or collection of additional funds, with corrections as noted during the discussion.

Motion carried:	Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Mr. McAvoy	Aye
Ms. Ford	Aye
Mr. Dunbar	Aye
Ms. Leahy	Aye
Mr. Serna	Aye
Mr. Rebensdorf	Absent

7. Operations Report

Mr. Jim Burror, Deputy GM/Chief Engineer, reported that Operations are currently quiet due to reduced staffing. Despite the lean team, preparations are underway for the upcoming construction activities. A recent overnight shutdown drill was conducted to ensure staff readiness when contractors arrive on site. He gave a special thanks to Roni for supporting the team during this preparation.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

8. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (September)
[Project Committees 2 and 15]

Ms. Roni Grant updated the Engineering Committee on the status of the following CIP projects:

- JBL Electrical Upgrades - Pre-purchasing activities for the Motor Control Center (MCC) and Plant 1 Generator are currently underway.\
- JBL Old Effluent Pump Station and Energy Building Upgrades – Construction is currently in progress.
- JBL Plant 2 Headworks Rehabilitation – Construction is currently in progress.
- JBL Old Effluent Pump Station Storage and Staging – The project is currently in bidding phase.
- CTP Diffusers Replacement – the Construction has been completed.
- CTP Aeration Deck Grating Replacement – Construction is near completion.
- CTP West Primary and Secondary Scum Skimming System – Pre-purchasing of scum skimmers, launders, and weirs is currently in progress.
- CTP Personnel Building Phase 2 Reconstruction – the project is currently in re-bidding phase.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

9. Regional Lab Feasibility Study

An open discussion ensued on the Laboratory Feasibility Study, a comprehensive study conducted by the Austin Company and a long-term project that was reintroduced to the Engineering Committee on May 9, 2024. As part of the 10-year plan, the study had previously outlined four options for the lab's future. Based on agency feedback, two options were prioritized: 1. Modernizing the existing facility without expansion, and 2. Expanding the lab to separate drinking water and wastewater operations.

Public Speaker: Rod Woods, Moulton Niguel Water District

There was consensus from the Engineering Committee to pause the current study temporarily, with plans to revisit the discussion in the future.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Grant adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Engineering Committee of September 11, 2025, and approved by the Engineering Committee and received and filed by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY