MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

Engineering Committee

Approved

January 22, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Engineering Committee was held on January 22, 2026, 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:

MIKE DUNBAR	Emerald Bay Service District
HANNAH FORD	El Toro Water District [Zoom]
ROBERT GRANTHAM	Santa Margarita Water District
MARC SERNA	South Coast Water District

Absent:

DAVE REBENSDORF	City of San Clemente
MARK MCAVOY	City of Laguna Beach

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
RONI GRANT	Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager
JIM BURROR	Deputy GM/Chief Engineer
BRIAN PECK	Project Manager
MATT CLARKE	Chief Technology Officer
LYNDA MAY	Administrative Assistant/Assistant Secretary

1. Call Meeting to Order

   Ms. Roni Grant, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager, called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

2. Public Comments

   None.

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

   Ms. Hannah Ford participated via Zoom.

4. Approval of Minutes

   - Engineering Committee Minutes of November 13, 2025.

   ACTION TAKEN
   A motion was made by Mr. Grantham and seconded by Mr. Dunbar to approve the Engineering Committee Minutes for November 13, 2025.

	Motion carried:	Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2	
		Mr. McAvoy	Absent
		Ms. Ford	Aye
		Mr. Dunbar	Aye
		Mr. Grantham	Aye
		Mr. Serna	Aye
		Mr. Rebensdorf	Absent

5. General Manager's Report

Ms. Amber Boone, General Manager, provided an update of the Master Schedule for CTP and JBL planning efforts. A discussion on the recent CASA General Manager Workshop ensued with a briefing on AB 339, with potential procedural templates being looked at currently. Mr. Dunbar commented on a session that covered customer base messaging, and the importance of using proper wording. Ms. Boone agreed and noted that a consistent vernacular will help the process on the investment side.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

6. Operations Report

Mr. Jim Burror, Deputy GM/Chief Engineer, gave a report on Operations, starting with status updates of the O&M budgets and the Cogeneration system service. A brief discussion ensued on the cost impact of the Cogeneration system being off with Mr. Burror concluding that the board will be informed of any budgetary issues associated with the Operations budget.

This was an information item; no action was taken

7. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Report and AQMD Permit Status

A discussion was opened with Ms. Grant briefing on the CTP access road project being put out to bid. Mr. Grantham requested schematics for the upcoming budget to show an overview of unit processes, and how they are needed to keep the plant operational. Ms. Boone suggested a look at the color-coded linking system used by OC Sanitation for NPDES assessments.

This was an information item; no action was taken

8. JBL Flare and Underground Piping Project (Project Committee 2)

An open discussion followed a presentation by Brian Peck, Project Manager, on the JBL Flare and Piping Relocation project. Mr. Grantham inquired on the timing and urgency and if it should be delayed until the Master Plan upgrades takes place. Mr. Burror emphasized the safety hazard of the current temporary setup, with Ms. Boone noting the pressure from AQMD with their new rule to replace the flare. After discussing the risks and technical considerations, the committee and staff agreed on the need to move forward.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

9. Contract Award for Coastal Treatment Plant Personnel Building Phase 2 Upgrades [Project Committee 15

A brief discussion ensued on the necessary upgrades to the Personnel Building with Mr. Burror noting cold weather exposure, and vector issues.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Mr. Dunbar and seconded by Mr. Serna to 1) authorize execution of a construction contract with T.E. Roberts in the amount of $649,848 and 2) approve a contract contingency of $97,500 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried:	Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1	
	Mr. Dunbar	Aye
	Mr. Serna	Aye
	Mr. McAvoy	Absent

10. CTP Storm Drainage Modifications [Project Committee 15]

An open discussion ensued on the potential compliance risks for delaying the storm drain improvements, with a consensus to bring the project back with more detail at the next Engineering Committee meeting.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

11. Effluent Transmission Main Reach B Techite Replacement Final Design [Project Committee 21]

An open discussion ensued on the scope of work with Ms. Ford updating the committee on El Toro Water District's current evaluation. The committee and staff agreed to proceed with the two firm interviews scheduled for the next week.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

12. CTP Facility Planning Assessment Project Update [Project Committee 15]

Ms. Grant updated the Engineering Committee on the proposals received from AECOM and Hazen. A discussion ensued regarding the interviewing and selection process with a suggestion for a secondary scoring method for interviews.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

13. Draft Capital Improvement Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Mr. Burror provided a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget and CIP Ten Year Plan, highlighting the anticipated cash requests, project allocations and providing calculations for agency billing purposes. Ms. Boone noted they will bring this back in February for more reviewing. Mr. Burror briefed on the status of CIP projects being planned including Digesters 3 and 4, IT infrastructure, and the golf course road repairs.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

14. Engineering Cost Estimate Update

An open discussion ensued on methods for more accurate cost estimating, including working with outside contractors and other agencies on their estimation processes. Mr. Grantham suggested using firms that have a variety of local projects that are current and related, such as a construction management firm. Mr. Serna suggested looking at recent bids from member agencies to compare to estimates. Ms. Ford also shared their methodology and offered to share their cost data with any future cost estimates. Ms. Boone also discussed options for cost estimating tools that utilize regional data.

16. Capacity and Flow Analysis

An open discussion ensued on the analysis of flows and loads at PC 2, and PC 15, comparing agreed-upon capacities and actual flows. Ms. Boone updated the committee on the template being created, and the O&M Budget being ready for the finance committee to review in February. Mr. Grantham commented their support on using the previous year's flows as a basis for the upcoming year. The discussion concluded with a suggestion for a quarterly update on any significant deviations from the agreed-upon capacities.

15. Cost Allocation Policy

A brief discussion ensued with Ms. Boone updating the committee on policy's progress with the board, finance committee, and audit. Ms. Boone requested committee members to look at their own Project Committee sections in the draft policy and in the Operational Cost Distribution report by Carollo to bring back in February.

17. 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 January 22, 2026, and approved by the Engineering Committee and received and filed by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

Lynda May

Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY