

**LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**  
Minutes of an Engineering Committee Meeting  
November 1, 2023

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A meeting of the Engineering Committee (EC) of Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD) was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., at the LWD Administration Office located at 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, California.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Saldana called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Saldana, Omsted

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Paul Bushee; Director of Technical Services Robin Morishita; Field Services Superintendent Marvin Gonzalez; Field Services Supervisor Gabe Mendez; Field Services Supervisor Mauricio Avalos; Project Coordinator Ian Riffel; District Engineer Dexter Wilson; and FST II Johnny Montoya.

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. New Business**

Authorize the General Manager to execute a sole source agreement with Rockwell Solutions for the purchase of a Vaughan Submersible Chopper Pump for the Leucadia Pump Station in an amount not to exceed \$36,880.

FST II Montoya presented this item to the EC. He provided background information on how a chopper pump operates and that it is a submersible pump. He continued that both the Leucadia Pump Station (LPS) and Batiquitos Pump Station (BPS) each have a chopper pump installed. He stated that in the past, the LPS and BPS have experienced challenges with large grease mats that develop and disrupt operations. This includes false readings because of interference with the electronic level sensors, increased maintenance activities, and odors generated by the grease mat.

FSTII Montoya stated that as part of the LPS Rehabilitation Project in 2021, a chopper pump was installed to combat the grease mat. He mentioned that as a result of the chopper pump install, the grease mat was eliminated.

Chairperson Saldana asked how a chopper pump can decrease odors. Staff answered that the grease mat generates a large amount of hydrogen sulfide and since the chopper pump eliminates the grease mat, the hydrogen sulfide associated with the grease mat is eliminated as well. Additionally, Staff explained the grease mat has the potential to clog pumps which then requires staff time to remediate.

FST II Montoya stated that Rockwell Solutions is the only authorized dealer of Vaughan Pumps in Southern California. He said Staff contacted Rockwell Solutions and they submitted an estimate of \$36,880.

GM Bushee added that a chopper pump rebuild can often take 8-10 weeks, and because the grease mat can form so rapidly, staff prefers to have a matching spare pump on hand to maintain operational effectiveness against the grease mat.

Chairperson Saldana asked if the costs would cover any unanticipated expenses to complete the install. GM Bushee explained the District doesn't expect any surprise expenses because the purchase is for a new chopper pump, rather than a pump rebuild which can have unknown additional costs. DTS Morishita stated that any submersible pump station in the District has a spare pump and he explained the importance of having a spare pump on hand.

Following discussion, the EC concurred with staff to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a sole source agreement with Rockwell Solutions for the purchase of the Vaughan Submersible Chopper Pump for LPS.

## **5. Information Items**

GM Bushee provided an update on the San Marcos Creek Pipeline issue.

GM Bushee explained that the heavier rains experienced earlier in the year caused quite a bit of erosion near a concrete encased sewer line (sewer line) that crosses the San Marcos creek. At that time, the District decided to start monitoring the erosion. An inspection in October revealed expedited erosion most likely attributed to a recent heavy rain in late August. As a result of the expedited erosion, an emergency repair is necessary.

DE Wilson provided information on the sewer line location. He noted another creek crossing further east, protected by an Arizona crossing, in close proximity to the sewer line. Chairperson Saldana asked what an Arizona crossing is. DE Wilson explained that it is a concrete road with culverts but also designed for water to flow over the road in heavy rain events.

DE Wilson stated there is a FY24 appropriation to complete design of a capital project to reroute the sewer line to the protected sewer line in the Arizona crossing. This would allow the District to abandon in place the defective sewer line. DE Wilson discussed photos that show the undermined sewer line in the creek and a missing section of concrete encasement, approximately a foot long, where visible PVC pipe can be seen.

Director Omsted asked if the concrete encasement can be repaired by applying more concrete. DE Wilson answered affirmatively.

DE Wilson explained the emergency repair will consist of repairing the missing section of concrete encasement as well as installing gabion baskets on the downstream side and rock/sand on the upstream side in order for water to flow over the concrete encased sewer line rather than underneath. He noted that the District is prepared to bypass the creek crossing if necessary.

DE Wilson stated the District will require an easement from either the HOA or the City of Carlsbad in order to install the proposed sewer line that will reroute the flow from the creek crossing to the Arizona crossing. Chairperson Saldana asked if the new easement would allow the District to forego another easement. GM Bushee answered affirmatively.

Chairperson Saldana asked how many situations has the District encountered with a creek crossing issue. GM Bushee explained the District did have a prior encounter with a creek

crossing, but this is the first time dealing with a creek crossing that has been undermined with potential trees and debris that could cause further damage. He stated the District is working with District Counsel, an environmental consultant, and Omni La Costa to coordinate the emergency repair effort. He stated the emergency repair is a temporary fix and a future project will be constructed to bypass the compromised section. Staff noted they will continue to closely monitor and inspect the creek crossing.

Director Omsted asked when the District Board will be notified of the San Marcos Creek Pipeline issue. GM Bushee answered at the November Board meeting.

**6. Directors' Comments**

None.

**7. General Manager's Comments**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairperson Saldana adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.



Paul J. Bushee,  
Secretary/Manager  
(Seal)