

LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT
Minutes of an Engineering Committee Meeting
June 2, 2025

A meeting of the Engineering Committee (EC) of Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD or District) was held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., at the LWD Administration Office located at 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, California.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Pacilio called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Pacilio, Brown (via Zoom)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Paul Bushee; Field Services Supervisor Gabe Mendez; Field Services Supervisor Mauricio Avalos; District Engineer Dexter Wilson; Capital Project Manager Ian Riffel; and Tim Lewis from Water Works Engineers

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Diana Pump Station Upgrade Project.

Recommendation 1: Authorize the General Manager to execute an Agreement with Palm Engineering Construction Company, Inc. for the construction of the Diana Pump Station Upgrade Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,317,432 as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Recommendation 2: Waive a bid irregularity related to experience requirements.

CPM Riffel presented these recommendations to the EC. He stated this item is a FY25 tactical goal and provided a brief background of the project.

CPM Riffel said that in June 2024, the Board authorized final design services with Water Works. He further noted Water Works completed design in March 2025 and staff advertised for bids in April. CPM Riffel said the estimated construction cost was \$1.4M. CPM Riffel reported that the District received three bids by the May 13th deadline and Palm Engineering Construction Company, Inc. (Palm Construction) was the lowest bidder at \$83k below the engineer's estimate.

CPM Riffel stated that during Water Work's evaluation of Palm Construction's bid documents, Water Works determined Palm Construction was responsive to all project qualification requirements except for experience. He continued that the District and Water Works still believe Palm Construction has the necessary experience to complete the project because the project is not a typical pump station project and focuses on excavation work, site improvements, and electrical upgrades. Palm Construction has experience in excavation work and site improvements and has a qualified subcontractor to complete the electrical portion of the work.

Director Brown asked for clarification that Palm Construction did provide experience references, but just not related to pump stations. CPM Riffel answered that Palm Construction did provide experience references, but only one was reference was confirmed to be a wastewater pump station. Chairperson Pacilio asked if Palm's bid includes the costs for the electrical subcontractor portion of the work. CPM Riffel answered affirmatively.

CPM Riffel continued that Palm Construction has a positive history with the District and the next lowest bidder is \$276k higher than Palm Construction's bid.

Overall, staff recommends to waive the bid irregularity and award the bid to Palm Construction.

Chairperson Pacilio inquired about the considerable difference between Palm Construction's bid and the next lowest bidder. Staff responded that Palm Construction appears to be motivated for work. Director Brown asked for the District's budgeted amount for the project. Staff answered that a proposed project budget of \$1.47M was presented at the Board Budget Workshop, however, this figure has been reduced by \$70k in the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget based on Palm Construction's bid.

Following discussion, the EC concurred with staff to forward the recommendations to the Board.

5. Information Items

CPM Riffel provided an update to the Rancho Verde Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. The EC asked several questions regarding the project and staff answered their questions.

6. Directors' Comments

None.

7. General Manager's Comments

None.

8. Adjournment

Chairperson Pacilio adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:23 p.m.



Paul J. Bushee,
Secretary/Manager
(Seal)