

**LEUCADIA WASTEWATER DISTRICT**  
Minutes of an Engineering Committee Meeting  
March 4, 2025

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A meeting of the Engineering Committee (EC) of Leucadia Wastewater District (LWD or District) was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:30 p.m., at the LWD Administration Office located at 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, California.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Brown called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Pacilio, Brown (via video conference)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Paul Bushee; Field Services Superintendent Marvin Gonzalez; 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. Water Works Engineers Contract Extension for As-Needed Engineering Design Services**

Authorize the General Manager to execute a two-year extension to the Water Works Engineers, LLC contract for as-needed engineering design services.

CPM Riffel presented this item to the EC. He provided background on the need for as-needed engineering design services including project design, bidding assistance and office engineering during construction. CPM Riffel noted the original three-year Agreement is expiring and includes a two-year extension option to maintain efficiency and continuity of service.

CPM Riffel highlighted that over the past three years, Water Works designed nine capital projects and provided construction support for six, including the successful completion of the San Marcos Creek Crossing Diversion Project and the L1 Force Main Bridge Emergency Repair. CPM Riffel continued that the District is satisfied with Water Works performance and recommends the two-year extension. He further clarified the Agreement does not establish a fixed compensation amount; instead, individual task orders are negotiated as necessary and Board approval is required for amounts exceeding the General Manager's signature authority.

Chairperson Brown asked about Water Works' capacity over the next two years. Tim Lewis confirmed that Water Works can continue prioritizing District projects. Chairperson Brown asked if the negotiated task order amounts remained within budget. Staff answered affirmatively. Chairperson Brown inquired about the task order issuance. GM Bushee clarified that task orders are individually negotiated per project.

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

**5. Fiscal Year 2025 Gravity Pipeline Replacement Project – Award of Construction Contract and Authorize Additional Appropriation**

Recommendation 1: Authorize the General Manager to execute an Agreement with Palm Engineering Construction Company, Inc. for construction services to complete the Fiscal Year 2025 Gravity Pipeline Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$793,052.80.

Recommendation 2: Authorize an additional appropriation of \$270k for project construction.

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

CPM Riffel said that in July 2024, the Board authorized final design services with Water Works. He further noted Water Works completed design in December and staff advertised for bids in January. CPM Riffel said the estimated construction cost was \$1.09M. CPM Riffel reported that the District received two bids by the February 11<sup>th</sup> deadline. However, the lowest bidder, Blue Pacific Engineering, withdrew their bid the following day due to a clerical error. He continued that staff approved the bid withdrawal, making Palm Engineering Construction Company, Inc. (Palm Construction) the next lowest bidder at \$296k below the engineer's estimate.

CPM Riffel reviewed staff's actions to ensure the bid was competitive. Based on this analysis, and the District's recent positive project history with Palm Construction, staff recommends awarding the bid to Palm Construction.

Director Pacilio inquired if DE Wilson determines the engineer's estimate. DE Wilson clarified that Tim Lewis with Water Works prepares the engineer's estimate and he reviews it. The EC and staff discussed the bid climate and cost prediction challenges.

Chairperson Brown asked if the District has considered leveraging a favorable future bid market by repairing additional sewer lines. Staff explained that sewer lines with the highest risk are repaired and, at this time, early design of additional sewer lines is not deemed beneficial. Chairperson Brown inquired whether the CCTV pipe rating system (0-4) is specific to the District. FSS Gonzalez confirmed and further noted that each CCTV operator is PACP certified. Chairperson Brown asked multiple questions regarding the project and District reserves. Staff answered his questions.

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

**6. Information Items**

CPM Riffel provided an update to the L1 Force Main Bridge Crossing Emergency Repair and provided background information on the repair. He reported that the second phase of the emergency repair had been successfully completed.

Chairperson Brown inquired whether additional structural weaknesses were identified during the repair process. CPM Riffel answered no. Chairperson Brown asked whether bridge movement had contributed to the bracket failure. Staff responded that while they do not believe bridge movement was a factor, a 2017 District project involving the installation of seismic couplers, which added weight to the force main brackets, may have contributed to the initial bracket failure.

**7. Directors' Comments**


Chairperson Brown congratulated staff for winning the CWEA State Award for Small Collection System.

**8. General Manager's Comments**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairperson Brown adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:31 p.m.



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Paul J. Bushée,  
Secretary/Manager  
(Seal)