

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Herbert I. Nakasone

SARFPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Members

City of Anaheim
City of Buena Park
City of Cypress
City of Fountain Valley
City of Fullerton
City of Garden Grove
City of Huntington Beach
City of Irvine
City of Newport Beach
City of Orange
City of Placentia
City of Santa Ana
City of Seal Beach
City of Stanton
City of Tustin
City of Westminster
City of Yorba Linda
County of Orange
Costa Mesa Sanitary District
O C Sanitation District
O C Flood Control District
O C Water District

September 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance/Attendees:

Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Chairwoman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Huntington Beach
Patrick Harper, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley
Stephen Faessel, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Anaheim
Cathy Green, First Vice President, Orange County Water District
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner
Jon Peat, Mayor, City of Cypress
Jonathan Hernandez, Director, OC Sanitation District, Council Member, City of Santa Ana
Kevin O'Toole, Orange County Water District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
Jennifer Shook, Orange County Public Works
Pipit Widjaja, Orange County Public Works
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency
James McConnell, SARFPA Washington DC Advocate

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Location

601 N. Ross Street
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Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Stephen Faessel, Mayor Pro Tem City of Anaheim.

3. Approval of June 24, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the June 24, 2021 Zoom Agency Meeting were unanimously approved on Motion by Jon Peat, Mayor, City of Cypress and Second by Cathy Green, First Vice-President, Orange County Water District.

4. Report from Washington D.C., Advocate Jim McConnell

- a. Jim McConnell reported he anticipates Congress to pass a Resolution to allow the Government to continue operating while the major Infrastructure and Social Spending Bills are under consideration. Jim reports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has sufficient funding to continue construction on the Santa Ana River Mainstem as a result of Appropriations approved in prior Fiscal Years.
- b. In regards the Westminster Project, the USACE is unable to submit the proposed Project to OMB until a Pre-construction, Engineering and Design (PED) report is completed to better determine the construction cost of the Project.

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Unfortunately, the PED cannot proceed until such time as a final FY 21-22 Appropriations Bill is adopted by Congress. Jim indicated the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will not consider “new start” funding on the Westminster Project until a PED is completed and the construction cost estimate on the Westminster Project is determined by the USACE.

- c. Jim believes the Westminster Project will be favorably received by the Administration and a New Start established by OMB since a large portion of the \$1.2 billion federal project will be funded by Orange County.
- d. Jim reported he has communicated with Representative Steel’s office on the Westminster Project and indicated Representative Steel is supportive and “on-board” with the Project. Jim also indicated Jim’s colleague Zack Isreal with the Ferguson Group plans to touch basis with Representative Lou Correa on the Westminster Project.

5. Election of SARFPA’s Vice Chair:

- a. Executive Director Herb Nakasone requested the Executive Committee consider adding, on an emergency basis, an item on the Agenda for an election to replace SARFPA’s Vice-Chairwoman Stacy Berry. Stacy Berry was the City of Cypress representative to SARFPA who recently resigned as the City of Cypress Mayor Pro Tem.
- b. On Motion by Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Huntington Beach and Second by Jonathan Hernandez, Director, Orange County Sanitation District, the additional agenda was added with no objection.
- c. Executive Director Herb Nakasone called for nominations for the position of SARFPA Vice-Chair. When no nominations were brought forth, City of Fountain Valley Council Member Patrick Harper volunteered to be the next SARFPA Vice-Chair. With no objections voiced from those present, Executive Director Herb Nakasone officially confirmed Patrick Harper as the SARFPA Vice-Chairman for the remainder of FY 2021-22.

6. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status:

OC Public Works Engineering Manager James Tyler provided an update of the **Santa Ana River Mainstem Project** as outlined below:

- a. The current Santa River Mainstem (SAR) construction activities are currently focused on the lower Santa Ana River in Orange County and the construction projects within the Prado Dam basin flood inundation area behind the dam. James reported the other major features of the SAR such as the Seven Oaks Dam and projects upstream of Prado Dam have been completed.
- b. James reported the Santiago Creek Project in Orange County is another major feature of the Santa Ana River Mainstem project which provides flood protection along Santiago Creek in the cities of Orange, Santa Ana, and Villa Park. A Design Memorandum is currently underway by the USACE to confirm the design requirements of the project as initially envisioned in the Phase II GDM Engineering Study for the Project.
- c. The current construction schedule for FY 21 included the construction award in September by the USACE of the \$24.5 million Alco Dike Project, the \$9.2 million River Road Project and the award in July of the \$29.8 million Norco Bluff

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Protection Project. The Prado Dam \$92.1 million Spillway project is scheduled for construct award in FY 22. James indicated all of these projects are located with the Prado Basin.

- d. Projects currently underway downstream from Prado Dam include the BNSF Railroad Bridge abutment project which will shortly be turned over to Riverside Flood Control District for maintenance. Also under construction in the Santa Ana River segment between Prado Dam and Weir Canyon Bridge in Orange County are the Reach 9-Phase 4 bank protection project and the Reach 9- 5A project which is scheduled for acceptance by the Orange County Flood Control District for maintenance, and the Reach 9-5B Bank Protection Project which was rebid due to non-performance by the initial contractor and currently under construction with a new contractor.
- e. In response to a question from Patrick Harper, City of Fountain Valley Council Member, regarding the ability of the County to meet the tight acquisition schedule on the 51 property acquisitions at Prado Dam, James Tyler indicated the Flood Control District will consider eminent domain proceedings, with the right of immediate possession only when necessary to meet the scheduled award for the Prado Dam Spillway project. Discussions will continue with the property owner with the Court eventually determining the fair market value to be awarded if negotiations are unsuccessful.
- f. James Tyler also reported negotiations for the relocation of utilities within the Prado Dam flood inundation area, such as with Edison's high voltage transmission lines, are also underway. The utilities are required to be relocated before the completion of the spillway project.

Westminster East Garden Grove Project:

- a. James Tyler provided a brief summary of the Westminster East Garden Grove Project by reporting on the completed USACE Feasibility Report which proposes funding by Congress for major flood control construction improvements in the Westminster Watershed in Orange County. The Report recommends construction of flood control improvements on the Westminster and East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channels to provide a 100-year level of flood protection and the removal of the largest remaining floodplain in Orange County.
- b. James also identified segments of the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel where the OCFCD has schedule construction improvements to be accomplished in advance of Congressional approval of the Project. This acceleration of flood control improvements in advance of Congressional approval of the Westminster Project is meant to provide improved flood protection in areas of the community where the need is most urgent. Orange County is proceeding in advance of Congressional approval in anticipation for financial credit towards its cost share of the Project.
- c. The County of Orange is also lobbying the Administration's Office of Management and Budget for including the Project as a "New Start" in its FY 21-22 appropriation bills. Also being pursued by the County is the completion by the USACE of a Pre-construction, Engineering and Design (PED) Report to the OMB which it needs to recommend a "New Start" on the Project.
- d. County staff is also seeking the approval of State of California Subvention funding for the Project through the approval of State Assembly Legislation AB 781 sponsored by Assemblyman Daly. State financial assistance on federally funded

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projects are accomplished through an existing California State Legislative program identified as State Subvention. The program requires funding approval of the State Legislature which AB 781 is intended to accomplish.

7. Report from Executive Director Herbert Nakasone:

Executive Director Herb Nakasone recommended scheduling meetings with U. S. Representatives Steel and Lou Correa to inform them of SARFPA's interest in seeking support on the Santa Ana River Mainstem and the proposed Westminster East Garden Grove Projects. Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize concurred in scheduling meetings with both Representatives.

8. Public and Representative Comments:

No comments were received.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM by Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Huntington Beach.

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