

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

## **Executive Director**

Herbert I. Nakasone

## **SARFPA FULL AGENCY 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

November 18, 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, SARFPA Executive committee, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Anaheim  
Cathy Green, SARFPA Executive Committee, First Vice President, Orange County Water District  
Art Perry, SARFPA Executive Committee, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Executive Committee, Mayor, City of Fullerton  
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  
Jake Nguyen, Public Works Director, City of Westminster  
Carlos Manzo, Council Member, City of Westminster  
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District  
Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District  
Tara Campbell, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda  
Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District  
Kim Constantine, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley  
Kim Nguyen, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Garden Grove  
Tri Ta, Director, Orange County Water District, Mayor, City of Westminster  
Alyce Van, Council Member, City of Stanton  
Bob Ooten, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Rudy Emami, Public Works Director, City of Anaheim  
Jennifer Shook, OC Environmental Resources, OC Public Works  
Pipit Widjaja, Orange County Public Works  
Catherine Lapid, Flood Programs, OC Public Works  
Penny Lew, Flood Programs, OC Public Works  
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 4048  
Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048

### **Email Address:**

Herb.Nakasone@ocpw.ocgov.com  
hinakasone22@gmail.com

### **Phone**

(714) 647-3938  
(949) 922-1852

### **Location**

601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana CA 92701

### **Website**

[www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa](http://www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa)

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Mayor, City of Huntington Beach.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Patrick Harper, Mayor Pro Tem City of Fountain Valley.

#### **3. Approval of September 23, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

The Minutes of the September 23, 2021 Zoom Agency Meeting were unanimously approved on Motion by Cathy Green, First Vice President, Orange County Water District and Second by Stephen Faessel, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Anaheim.

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

Jim McConnell submitted a written Report which is attached to these Minutes.

Executive Director Herb Nakasone presented a summary of Jim's Report as follows:

- a. President Biden signed the \$1.2 trillion Build Back Better (BBA) Act on November 15, 2021 which has massive amount of funding for infrastructure projects. The Westminster East Garden Grove Project could be a candidate.
- b. The US Army Corps of Engineers cannot begin construction on a federal project without the approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Congress has proposed returning the use of earmarks to allow projects of state and local government to be funded by Congress without prior approval of OMB.
- c. The Westminster Project is to be 75 percent funded locally and presents a good opportunity for OMB "new start" authorization and should be advanced by the County.
- d. Funding for the FY 22 annual appropriation bills has stalled as Congress grappled with trying to enact both the BBB Act and the budget reconciliation proposal to fund another \$1.5 - 2 trillion in domestic spending priorities.
- e. Funding for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is secure regardless of when the FY 22 appropriations bills are eventually enacted.

#### **5. 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. James Tyler provided a brief overview on the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project by explaining the Orange County Flood Control District, the Riverside Flood Control District and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District are the three sponsors on the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) with each responsible for the features in their respective jurisdiction with the exception of Seven Oaks Dam where all three sponsors had an interest in the project based on the amount of flood protection provided by the Dam to each of the three Counties. James indicate Riverside and San Bernardino Flood Control Districts have completed projects in their jurisdictions which were part of the SARP.
- b. The remaining features of the SARP yet to be completed by the USACE are located within the Prado Dam ponding area and along the Santa Ana River in Orange County including Santiago Creek.
- c. The current USACE construction schedule for FY 21-22 is focused on three construction projects underway behind Prado Dam and a remaining bank protection project within the Santa Ana River adjacent the City of Yorba Linda. The three construction projects underway behind Prado Dam are the \$29.7 million Norco Bluffs, \$18.1 million River Road Dike and the \$30.8 million Alcoa Dike.
- d. The \$91.1 million Prado Dam spillway improvement project is anticipated to be underway in FY 22 with completion in FY 25. The spillway project is contingent on property acquisition currently underway behind the Dam and on Edison High voltage transmission lines being relocated to provide adequate height clearances with the anticipate water surface elevations behind the dam.

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

- e. Acquisition of 49 remaining properties behind Prado Dam is underway by the County of Orange. These acquisitions are needed before the Prado Dam Spillway can be improved. Eminent Domain is being initiated when necessary to allow for the right of possession to allow the project to proceed with the compensating value determined through court proceedings.
- f. The \$170 million Santiago Creek flood protection project which drains into the lower Santa Ana River located in the cities of Orange and Santa Ana is undergoing an upgraded Design Memorandum by the USACE to identify the specific design features for the project. James reported the \$2.5 million Design Memorandum on the Santiago Creek project is scheduled for completion by October 2022.
- g. The remaining construction feature within the reach of the Santa Ana River between Weir Canyon Road and Prado Dam is the \$22.5 million Reach 9-5B bank protection feature adjacent the City of Yorba Linda scheduled for completion in May 2022. This is the last of the flood protection improvements on the Santa Ana River within Orange County.
- h. The significance of completing channel improvements on the Santa Ana River in Orange County is the ability of the River to now accept the 30,000 cfs design flow releases from Prado Dam and allows Orange County to move closer towards having a 190-year level of flood protection as contemplated by the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. The 190-year level of protection from the Santa Ana River for Orange County will be finally accomplished with the completion of improvements to the Prado Dam Spillway.

## **Westminster East Garden Grove Project:**

- a. James Tyler provided a brief overview of the Westminster East Garden Grove Wintersburg (EGGW) Project explaining the Feasibility Study on the project completed by the USACE allows Congress to consider the Project for inclusion in the next Water Resources Development Act.
- b. James identified the various channels included for improvements in the Feasibility Study and shown in an exhibit of the Westminster watershed. The three major channels are identified as the Westminster Channel, the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel and the Lane Channel. Along with the proposed channels to be improved, the exhibit identified the floodplains along each of the respective channels the improvement projects are intended to remove. A copy of the Exhibit 1 is attached as part of these Minutes.
- c. James also identified the reaches of construction improvements on the Westminster and East Garden Grove Wintersburg channels scheduled by the OC Public Works on its multi-year construction schedule. These construction projects are part of the overall channel improvements identified in the USACE Westminster Watershed Feasibility Study and are being constructed by OC Public Works in advance of Congressional approval with the anticipation that the County will receive credits towards its share of the Westminster East Garden Grove Wintersburg Project upon approval by Congress. Copy of exhibit on multi-year construction schedule attached as Exhibit 2.
- d. Francisco Barajas reported on the County's successful State legislative effort to have AB 781 passed with the help of Assemblyman Daly to continue authorization of the State Subvention Program. While the State Act allows for the Subvention program to be authorized, it does not provide the necessary funding for the

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

program. The county is now working with the State Association of Counties to introduce legislation to allow for funding of the program.

- e. On the Federal level, Francisco reported the County is working with the USACE to include the \$500,000 funding in the FY 2022 Appropriations to complete the Planning Engineering Design (PED) study for the Westminster Project.
- f. Francisco also reports the County is working with the LA District USACE and its lobbyist in Washington DC to utilize funding from the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to fund the PED report on the Westminster East Garden Grove Wintersburg Project and to start construction on the Project.

## **6. Report from Executive Director Herbert Nakasone:**

At the request of SARFPA Vice-Chairman Patrick Harper, who assumed the Chair of the meeting due to Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize having to depart the meeting, Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported he is working on scheduling meetings with Congress members Michelle Steel and Lou Correa to introduce SARFPA to both members and to convey SARFPA's interest in the Westminster Project and to seek their support for the Project.

## **7. Public and Representative Comments:**

- a. Mayor John Peat of Cypress asked if SARFPA members were involved in the Community Water System Alliance program and wondered if SARFPA had an interest in the Program. Executive Director indicated he was not aware of the program and suggested Mayor Peat forward information on the program for SARFPA members to review and determine if SARFPA had an interest in the program.
- b. Kelly Rowe suggested if OC Public Works would be able to schedule a Community Rating System (CRS) Workshop with State and or FEMA participation to allow cities to better understand the program since the program is meant to reduce the floodplain insurance rates. Executive Director Herb Nakasone will work with Penny Lou and James Tyler to determine if a CRS Workshop can be arranged at a future SARFPA meeting.
- c. Executive Director Herb Nakasone provided the SARFPA meeting dates for calendar year 2022, which is generally held on the fourth Thursday, every other month beginning 4 pm, Thursday January 27, 2022. A copy of the meeting schedule will be included with these Minutes.

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM by Vice Chairman, Patrick Harper, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley.