

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

June 22, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Attendees:

Patrick Harper, SARFPA Chairman, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley
Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton
Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner
Art Perry, SARFPA Executive Committee, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Cathy Green, SARFPA Executive Committee, President, Orange County Water District
Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
Natalie Meeks, Council Member, City of Anaheim
Kevin Kirwin, Council Member, City of Placentia
Donald Torres, Council Member, City of Stanton
Benjamin Vazquez, Council Member, City of Santa Ana
Jake Ngo, City Manager, City of Westminster
Manuel Escamilla, Supervisor Sarmiento's representative
Robert Thompson, General Manager, OC Sanitation District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

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Location

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Website

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1. Call to Order

Meeting Call to Order by Chairman Patrick Harper, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley at 4:04 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Harper

3. Approve Minutes of May 25, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

Approve Minutes of May 25, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting - Chairman Patrick Harper.

Minutes of May 25, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting was unanimously approved based on Motion by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District and Second by Bruce Whitaker, Mayor, Pro Tem, City of Fullerton

4. SARFPA FY 2023-24 Budget – Executive Director

Executive Director Herb Nakasone presented the Budget to the members present and explained the proposed Budget is to remain identical to the FY 2022-23 Budget with the Annual dues remaining the same at \$1,300.00 per member.

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On Motion by Cathy Green, President Orange County Water District, and Second by Art Perry Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District the Budget was unanimously approved.

Attached is adopted FY 2023-24 Budget. The members present at the meeting along with Proxy Ballots submitted by Members Supervisor Sarmiento and City of Orange Council Member Denis Bilodeau provided the necessary members to vote approval of the Budget.

5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee for FY 23-24 – Executive Director

Executive Director Herb Nakasone presided over the election of FY 2023-24 Officers and Executive Committee Members. Mr. Nakasone explained that the Executive Committee is responsible for the administration of the day-to-day business of the SARFPA organization and meets seven times a year while the general membership is asked to meet twice a year in June and November. Herb explained that the June Meeting is the key meeting where the Agency approves its Budget and elects its Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Committee Members for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Herb Nakasone reported the existing Executive Committee as the Nominating Committee recommended the existing Executive Committee, including its Chairman and Vice-Chairman continue as its officers and Executive Committee members. In addition, members Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach, Janice Lim, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda, and Francis Marquez, Council Member, City of Cypress were recommended as three additions to the Executive Committee.

Herb Nakasone than opened any nominations from the floor. Hearing no additional nominations, Herb Nakasone requested a motion to close the nominations and approved the recommended Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Committee Members for FY 2023-24 as listed below:

Executive Committee members:

Chairman, Patrick Harper, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley

Vice Chairman, Bruce Whitaker, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton

Cathy Green, President, Orange County Water District

Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District

James Tyler, OC Public Works Engineering Manager and Alternate for Supervisor Don Wagner

Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach (new Executive Committee Member)

Janice Lim, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda (new Executive Committee Member)

Francis Marquez, Council Member, City of Cypress (new Executive Committee Member).

On Motion by Cathy Green, President, Orange County Water District and Second by Natalie Meeks, Council Member, City of Anaheim, the Fiscal Year SARFPA Executive Committee Members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman as listed above, were unanimously approved for FY 2023-24.

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6. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status – James Tyler, OC Public Works

Santa Ana River Mainstem Project:

James Tyler introduced his presentation using Power Point slides starting with a summary of the overall Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) by explaining the SARFP is a joint project which included the Orange County, Riverside, San Bernardino Flood Control Districts and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Orange County Flood Control (OCFCD) portion of the SARP included Seven Oaks Dam, Prado Dam, the Lower Santa Ana River and Santiago Creek. Seven Oaks Dam is completed and being maintained by the OCFCD.

James reported the remaining features to be completed on the SARP are three levee protection projects behind Prado Dam, the raising of the Prado Dam spillway and Santiago Creek in Orange County. Another large task for the OCFCD is the property acquisition and utility relocations in the Prado Dam basin which are needed before the major spillway project can be initiated. According to James, the spillway project will have a special contractor participation bidding process. In regards the Santiago Creek Project in Orange County, James indicated a Design Review Report is underway and should be completed in the near future.

Westminster Watershed Project:

James reported the Westminster Project has a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Westminster Watershed Feasibility Study approved in 2020 through the Water Resources Development Act which is the first step in securing federal funding.

James stated the 100-year level Westminster Project while authorized by Congress now needs federal funding called a New Start funding to be approved by Congress. The key to securing federal funding for the Westminster Project is to have the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers include the Westminster Project in their annual request of projects to Congress. Herb Nakasone stated he will be working with County staff on a coordinated plan to approach the USACE to include the Westminster Project in their annual request to Congress for securing a New Start funding for the project.

Since the National Flood Insurance requirement was discussed for residents in the Westminster watershed, a flood insurance rate hike was brought up by Bruce Whitaker, Mayor, Pro Tem City of Fullerton experienced by one his constituents. Bruce requested if anyone else in other cities had experienced huge rate hikes in their cities and would appreciate any feedback.

7. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone

Director Herb Nakasone reported the field trip to Prado Dam discussed at the previous Executive Committee Meeting has been confirmed for Thursday July 13, 2023. Herb indicated Transportation will be provided by County of Orange Public Works staff with pickups at the Orange County Water District offices at 9:30 am and approximately 10 am at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Center (ARTIC). Sandwiches and soft drinks will be provided.

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Herb Nakasone also informed the members the July 27, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting has been cancelled with the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled on September 28, 2023.

8. Public and Representative Comments:

Natalie Meeks, Council Member, City of Anaheim, brought up the issue of homeless encampments at storm drain outlets into flood control channels and requested if anyone was aware if a policy has been established to deal with these encampments. James Tyler reported he believed if the outlet is into an Orange County Flood Control District facility the County maintenance staff accompanied by a Sheriff Deputy would investigate the encampment. According to James the issue as to responsibility for removing the encampment often is based the who has jurisdiction of the facility. Since storm drains are normally under the jurisdiction of cities and the channels are with the Orange County Flood Control District, the responsibility as to what government agency, City or County has responsibility for removal of the encampment requires coordination between the two entities.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Patrick Harper, Major, City of Fountain Valley adjourned the Meeting at 5:00 pm.

NOTE: James's presentation is available on file.