

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 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Attendees:

Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton
Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach
Art Perry, SARFPA Executive Committee, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
Manuel Escamilla, Supervisor Sarmiento's representative
Francis Marquez, Council Member, City of Cypress
Janice Lim, Council member, City of Yorba Linda
Keith Linker, City Engineer, City of Anaheim
General Mark Toy, General Manager, Yorba Linda Water District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner
Tim Nguyen, Engineer, OC Public Works

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Location

601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana CA 92701

Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

1. Call to Order - Vice Chairman

Meeting Call to Order by Vice-Chairman Bruce Whitaker, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton in absence of Chairman Patrick Harper at 4:04 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Vice Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance led by Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach

3. Approve Minutes of June 22, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting - Vice Chairman

Minutes of June 22, 2023 Full Agency Meeting was unanimously approved based on Motion by Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.

4. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status - Tim Nguyen, OC Public Works

Santa Ana River Mainstem Project:

Tim Nguyen, Senior Engineer with OC Public Works presented the current status of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARFPA) utilizing a Power Point presentation. Tim covered the following features of the SARFPA:

- a. Tim briefly reiterated the SARP is a joint project of the US Army Corps of Engineers and Local Sponsors, Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino flood control districts and includes projects in the three Counties with the projects in Riverside and San Bernardino jurisdictions such as the Seven Oaks Dam in San Bernardino County completed.

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- b. Tim reported the remaining projects of the SARP currently underway are the joint responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). The remaining projects include bank protection in the Santa River below Prado adjacent the City of Yorba Linda, three dike protection projects behind Prado Dam, the modification of Prado Dam Spillway and Santiago Creek improvements in the cities of Orange and Santa Ana.
- c. As Tim mentioned the three dike protection projects behind Prado Dam are the \$32 million Norco Bluffs, \$11.3 million River Road Dike, and the \$31.8 million Alcoa Dike projects all of which are anticipated to be completed in FY 2024.
- d. The major \$1.35 billion Prado Dam Spillway modification project is currently being designed and scheduled to be under construction in FY 2025. The design effort is being coordinated with construction contractors who are interested in securing the construction contract regarding construction techniques for the massive construction concrete contract.
- e. Tim reported right-of-way acquisition for flooding rights and utility relocations behind Prado Dam need to be completed before the Prado Dam Spillway improvements can commence. Eight large commercial properties estimated at \$90 million remain to be acquired behind Prado Dam and negotiations with the Edison Company for power line relocations involving prior rights are currently under way.
- f. Bank protection construction projects along the Santa Ana River below Prado Dam adjacent the City of Yorba Linda and along the Southerly bank of the river adjacent the 91 Freeway are schedule to be turned over to the OCFCD with the Notice of Completion issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2024.
- g. The Santiago Creek project design improvements are currently being scheduled for public review on Monday October 2, 2023 at the Conference Center in the OC Public Works facility at 601 N. Ross Street in the City of Santa Ana government complex. The schedule evening meeting is subject to Congress passing a Federal Budget for FY 2024 prior to October 1, 2023.

Westminster East Garden Grove Project:

- a. Tim Nguyen introduces the 74 square mile Westminster Project by stating the Project has been authorized by Congress as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and included as part the 2020 Omnibus Bill December 2020.
- b. The total estimated project cost of the Westminster East Garden Grove Project is \$1.22 billion with the Federal share at \$310 million and the Local share at \$910 million. The Federal share was limited by the National Economic Development (NED) directive which limited federal cost to allow its contribution to not exceed projected damages. The federal NED project did not meet FEMA's 100-year level of protection and would not have removed the current floodplain. The goal of the local share is to allow the project to provide a 100 level of protection and remove the existing FEMA floodplain.
- c. While the Local share of the Projects is three times the Federal share, part of the local share is to be reimburse by the State of California provided the project qualifies as a Federal Project.
- d. The OCFCD is constructing segments of the Project with local funds in anticipation of credit toward the total project cost of a Federal project. The OCFCD is currently

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improving bridges over the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel at Warner, Springdale and Edwards Avenue to increase the storm flows under the bridges.

5. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone

a. Letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army:

At the request of OC Public Works, SARFPA Chairman Patrick Harper signed a letter sent to the Honorable Michael L. Conner, Assistant Secretary of the Army. The purpose of the correspondence as reported earlier by Tim Nguyen is:

- To request the US Army Corp of Engineers to authorize USACE at the South Pacific Division approval authority for property appraisal and litigation settlements up to \$20 million.
- To reimburse the OCFCD for the eminent domain deposits paid to the State of California Treasure Department for property acquisition behind Prado Dam.
- Authorized the USACE to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the OCFCD for the Westminster East Garden Grove Project
- Allow a 50-50 federal/local sponsor cost share on the Westminster East Garden Grove Project.

b. SARFPA's future Purpose and Function:

Executive Director Herb Nakasone informed the members the purpose and function of the SARFPA is to assist the OCFCD and the County of Orange in seeking federal appropriation for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP). The Executive Director reported appropriation on the SARP, with the exception of the Santiago Creek feature, is fully funded to complete construction of the major SARFPA features including the Prado Dam spillway. Since the Westminster Project is separate from the SARP the Executive Director informed the SARFPA members regarding its interest in continuing the SARFPA Joint Powers Agency in seeking federal appropriations for the Westminster Project.

6. Public and Representative Comments:

- a. Comments were made by Kelly Rowe regarding the FEMA Floodplain Community Rating System and indicated how cities could participate in the program to assist residents in reducing flood insurance rates. Kelly also indicated a city needs to be in the program for residents and businesses to purchase flood insurance.
- b. Next Meeting scheduled for November 16, 2023.
- c. No other comments were received

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.