

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

## SARFPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### **Executive Director**

Herbert I. Nakasone

### **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

January 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

### **Attendance/Attendees:**

Patrick Harper, SARFPA Chairman, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley  
Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton  
Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach  
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Carlos Munso, Council Member, City of Westminster  
Nabil Saba, Public Works Director, City of Santa Ana  
Keith Linker, City Engineer, City of Anaheim  
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner  
Christopher Chan, OC Public Works

### **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 - Chairman**

Meeting Call to Order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Patrick Harper, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance - Chairman Patrick Harper**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Patrick Harper, SARFPA Chairman, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley

#### **3. Approve Minutes of September 28, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting**

At the request of Chairman Patrick Harper for a Motion on the Minutes, the Minutes of the January 25, Executive Committee Meeting were unanimously approved on a Motion by Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach and Second by Nabil Saba, Public Works Director, City of Santa Ana.

#### **4. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status – James Tyler, Flood Programs Manager, OC Public Works**

##### **Santa Ana River Mainstem Project:**

James Tyler, Flood Program Manager with OC Public Works presented the current status of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARFPA) utilizing a Power Point presentation. James covered the following features of the SARFPA:

- a. James began by reporting the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) is designed to provide 190 hundred year flood protection to the residents of Orange County due in large part of the three major features of the SARP which are the Prado Dam, the Seven Oaks Dam, and channel improvements to the Santa Ana River below Prado Dam to the River's outlet at the ocean between the cities of Newport Beach and Huntington Beach and the Prado Dam. The Seven Oaks Dam

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

and the channel improvements below Prado Dam have been completed providing 100 year level from the overflows from the Santa Ana River. The raising of the Prado Dam with the new gated outlet from its original construction of the Prado Dam in 1946 have been completed. Remaining at the Prado Dam is the reconstruction of the dam spillway. The construction of an improved spillway is a major construction feature estimate to cost over one billion dollars and estimated open bids on a construction and value engineering contract awarded in 2024. The spillway project is estimated to be completed in five years.

- b. In regard to the funding status of the Prado Dam Spillway as requested by Patrick Harper, James reported the funding is available for the USACE to proceed with a construction contract.
- c. Property acquisition behind the dam along with utility relocations impacted by the raising of the dams flood storage capacity is underway with the major property acquisitions under Court Ordered Eminent Domain proceedings by the start of the spillway construction scheduled for 2025.
- d. The OC Public Works staff along with its Counsel are negotiation with the Edison Company on the relocation of the Edison power lines that cross over the Prado Dam reservoir's projected storm water storage height behind the dam. The resulting storm storage height behind the Dam increased due to the raising of the dam height resulting in an accompanying increase in the water storage volume and height. The USACE has the senior property rights to the property behind Prado Dam where Edison transmission lines are located thus the position taking by the USACE that it has the rights to require relocation of the transmission by the Edison Company.
- e. Construction projects currently underway behind Prado Dam are the following three projects (1) the \$29.7 million Norco Bluffs slope protection, (2) the \$18.1 million River Road dike and slope protection and (3) the \$30.8 million Phase 2 Alcoa Dike projects. These three projects are scheduled to be completed in 2024.
- f. The Santiago Creek Project in the City of Santa Ana and Orange is the remaining Feature of the SARP that remains to have the project design completed. The project is currently having a Design Report and Environment Review underway by the USACE. The Project has received Public Comments at two Public Meetings held by the County and the USACE with several residents opposed to the current design and want the USACE to provide alternatives to the current proposed design that would allow more of the current trees to be retained.
- g. The bank protection construction projects in the reach of the Santa Ana River between Prado Dam and Weir Canyon Bridge along with the construction improvements to the ATSF railroad bridge abutments are completed and awaiting turn over to the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) due to deferred maintenance on the completed construction projects underway by the USACE.
- h. James reported the USACE during an annual inspection on the Santa Ana River discovered a reach of the Santa Ana River between the 57 freeway and the 22 freeway to have the Westerly levee of the River to have less than the required design levee height. The cause of the error has been discovered and is due to non-River improvements permitted by the OCFCD of other public entities with permitted projects such as OCWD's the installation of buried conduit in the River levee which modified the levee height and not discovered by the OCFCD. The OCFCD is working on correcting the problem and will raise the levee to the desired design height.

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

## **5. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone**

Executive Director Herb Nakasone was not able to attend the SARFPA Meeting due to his attendance of a family member's Memorial in Hawaii. In place of a report by the Executive Director, a video was shown of Seven Oaks Dam narrated by Hugh Houser's television program on The California Water Store stored at Chapman University.

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

- a. Regarding funding status of the Westminster Project requested by Patrick Harper, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley, James reports there is no new news.
- b. In regards to a question by a member on the difference in the relocation cost of utilities at Prado Dam between the County and the Edison Co., James reported the USACE has property rights at Prado Dam acquired when Prado Dam was originally constructed in 1946. Since the USACE has senior rights to the Edison Co., The Edison Co. easement is junior to the USACE and the County is contending, the Edison Co. is responsible for relocating its transmission lines.
- c. In response John Whitaker, Council Member, City of Fullerton question regarding the possibility of a field trip to Seven Oaks Dam, James will be discussion the possibility of a field trip with Executive Director and report back to the group during the March meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned the Meeting at 4:30 pm.