

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

May 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Attendees:

Patrick Harper, SARFPA Chairman, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley
Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Council Member City of Fullerton
Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Janice Lim, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda
Kathleen Treseder, Council Member, City of Irvine
Van Tran, Director, Orange County Water District
Erik Weigand, Director, Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District
Keith Linker, City Engineer, City of Anaheim
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

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Location

601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana CA 92701

Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approve Minutes of March 28, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the March 28, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting were unanimously approved on a Motion by Pat Burns, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Huntington Beach and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District

4. Review and Recommend Approval of the 2024-25 SARFPA Budget to SARFPA Members on June 27, 2024 Agency Meeting

Executive Director Herb Nakasone presented SARFPA's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget to the Executive Committee for its approval and recommendation for adoption by SARFPA membership at the June 27, 2024 Agency Meeting. The total Budget amount of \$28,450.00 is the same amount as the current Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget thereby allowing the Annual Membership Dues for each member to remain at \$1,300.00. The Reserve Balance for the Agency is \$100,820.00. On a Motion by Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District, the proposed Budget was approved by the Executive Committee with

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

the recommendation for its Approved by the SARFPA Membership at the Agency meeting scheduled for June, 27, 2024.

5. 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 (SARMP) as follows:

- a. James Tyler using a Power Point Presentation began his report by explaining the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Flood Control Districts in the Counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino. Each County Flood Control District is the local sponsor for the projects in their respective counties with the exception of the Seven Oaks and Prado Dams. The Seven Oaks Dam is a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the three Flood Control Districts and Prado Dam is a joint project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Orange County Flood Control District.
- b. James explained the Santa Ana River Mainstem Projects (SARP) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have been completed. The remaining SARP construction projects as explained by James to be completed included the Alcoa and a slope protection project within the Prado Dam basin, the Prado Dam spillway reconstruction and Santiago Creek in Orange County. The two dike construction projects are the Alcoa Dike and River Road Dike projects and the slope protection Norco Bluffs Bank Stabilization project behind the Prado Dam are scheduled to be completed by the end of the current year. The \$1.35 billion Prado Dam Spillway reconstruction and the \$.41 million Santiago Creek project are the two remaining projects of the SARP to be completed. Initial funding on the Prado Dam Spillway has been appropriate by Congress and the USACE has identified funding for the Santiago Creek Project.
- c. The Reach 9, 5A and 5B bank protection construction projects between Prado Dam and Weir Canyon bridge have been completed and is awaiting completion of deferred maintenance activities and preparation of maintenance manuals before being turned over for future maintenance to the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD).
- d. James reported the discovery of an error in the westerly height of the Santa Ana River levee height between the I-5-frwy and the 22 frwy is being designed to the required height and a construct project to correct the deficiency is scheduled to be accomplished by the OCFCD.
- e. In regard to property acquisition and utility relocations behind Prado Dam. James reported the County has acquired property rights for 112 of the 113 remaining properties and is in negotiation with the remaining commercial property owner. The USACE requires the OCFCD to acquire all properties rights behind Prado Dam before construction of the Prado Dam spillway can have a construction contract awarded.
- f. The Edison Company relocation of its power lines in the Prado Reservoir estimated to cost \$142 million are currently under discussion regarding the Senior Real Estate rights claimed by the USACE.

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

- g. James reported the \$1.35 billion Prado Dam Spillway reconstruction project is the last major construction feature on the SARP and is anticipated to begin construction in August of 2025 and is expected to take 5 to 7 years to complete. The USACE is currently scheduled to award an Early Construction Investigation (ECI) contract to identify Pre-construction Services and Early Work items for the spillway construction contract.
- h. James added the County is attempting to have the USACE Division have approval authority for property appraisal and settlements of property acquisition cost rather than have the need to forward the appraisal and settlement values to Army Headquarters. The County is also requesting USACE authority to reimburse eminent domain deposits when there is an Order of Possession.

Westminster Watershed Feasibility Study

- a. As reported by James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works, the Westminster East Garden Grove project has the second largest watershed of 74 square miles affecting Orange County after the Santa Ana River watershed. The watershed has the largest remaining floodplain on Orange County with a total of 4,461 FEMA flood insurance policies totaling a yearly cost to residents of \$3,420,276.00.
- b. James reported the watershed has a population of 250,000 with 24,000 structures at risk with an estimated \$5.45 billion damages in a 100-year storm event.
- c. To resolve the potential flood risk to the community, per James, the Westminster East Garden Grove Project was authorized by Congress as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and signed by the President as part of the Omnibus Bill of December 2020. Unfortunately, funding for the Project requires Congressional appropriations to fund the Project and remove the identified FEMA floodplain.
- d. The Project authorized by Congress in 2020 identified the Locally Preferred Plan estimated at \$1.2 billion, with a federal cost share of \$315 million and the local share of \$910 million. The County of Orange have been using its lobbyist and Congressional Delegation in advocating for the pre-construction and engineering design phase of the project identified as the Tide Gates project to initiate an initial project start.
- e. In reporting good news, James reported the County was recently informed that the USACE 2024 Work Plan, released on May 13, 2024, includes \$750,000 to initiate the preconstruction engineering and design phase of the CO5 Tide Gates Project.
- f. James Tyler reported on the current Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) construction projects underway and the future construction project scheduled on the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel (EGGW). These incremental projects are being initiated and funded from the yearly OCFCD budget process approved by the OCFCD Board of Supervisors. While these incremental construction projects are identical to the federally approved project, the scope of the projects are smaller in size and will take 20 or more years to complete if federal funding is not forthcoming.
- g. James also reported the current projects underway on the EGGW channel include bridge improvements at Warner Avenue, Springdale and Edwards.
- h. OCWD Representative Van Tran indicated he had previous experience with OCPW

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

staff regarding the removal of FEMA floodplain and suggested if information from the County's Legislative and Public Works offices could provide information to SARFPA on the effort required for removal of floodplains. Executive Director Herb Nakasone indicated he would follow up with OCPW staff for requesting the Legislative Office for a possible briefing.

- i. SARFPA Chairman Patrick Harper requested information on how segments of the existing floodplain adjacent the EGGW Channel could be removed when segments of the EGGW Channel constructed by the OCFCD is completed. James Tyler indicating the EGGW Channel would need to have the reach between the tide gates to the I-405 Frwy to be completed before the floodplains downstream from the I-405 could be removed since the EGGW would overflow anywhere downstream of the I-405 Frwy.
- j. Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairmen reported he recently had discussions with General Toy, previous Major General with the USACE who indicated he is available to assist in communicating with the USACE for funding of the Westminster Project. Executive Director Herb Nakasone will discuss General Toy's assistance with OCPW staff.

6. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone

Herb Nakasone reported the OCPW staff is able to support SARFPA for a field trip to Seven Oaks Dam on Thursday, August 8, 2024. Van will be provided for transportation to the Dam east of the City of Highlands in San Bernardino County. An announcement will be made in the August SARFPA Meeting Notice requesting for a confirmation of those interested in participating in the Field Trip.

7. Public and Representative Comments:

No public members were present and no comments were received from the Representatives.

8. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Patrick harper at 4:58 pm.