

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Herbert I. Nakasone

SARFPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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 23, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Attendees:

Pat Burns, Vice Chairman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District
Cathy Green, SARFPA Executive Committee, Director, Orange County Water District
Bob Ooten, Director Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Erik Weigand, Orange County Water District; Council Member, City of Newport Beach
Janice Lim, SARFPA Executive Committee, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda
Keith Linker, City Engineer, City of Anaheim
Chris Olsen, Executive Director of Engineering, Orange County Water District
James Morgan, Orange County Public Works
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

1. Call to Order

Meeting Call to Order at 4:04 pm by Vice Chairman Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District and Mayor, City of Huntington Beach.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Janice Lim, Mayor, City of Yorba Linda

3. Approve Minutes of November 21, 2024, Full Agency Meeting

On Motion by Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District and Second by Pat Burns SARFPA Vice Chairman and Director, Orange County Sanitation District the Minutes were unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.

4. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status - Executive Director Herb Nakasone narrated the Power Point Report in the absence of James Tyler who was requested to be present at a Court Hearing to represent the Orange County Flood Control District. Herb Nakasone reported the following using a Power Point outline as follows:

Santa Ana River Mainstem Project:

- a. Herb provided his insight on the SAR and the key features of SAR Mainstem Project which provides flood protection to Orange County residents and businesses.
- b. Herb indicated the major features of the SAR identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study which are key to providing flood protection to Orange County are the Seven Oaks Dam, Prado Dam and the Lower Santa Ana River Channel. The construction of the Seven Oaks Dam has been completed along with the channel improvements to the Santa Ana River in Orange County below Prado Dam.

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- c. Herb reported, the Prado Dam spillway along with the Santiago Creek Project in Orange County, are the major features yet to be completed on the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. The Prado Dam embankment has been raised 30 feet but the Dam Spillway improvements is yet to be designed and constructed.
- d. As a point of interest, Herb reported the inclusion and approval of the Seven Oaks Dam, a key feature of the SARP, is located in San Bernardino County and was not initially received with open arms by the two upstream Counties.
- e. Congressional approval of the SARP was conditioned upon the Counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino agreeing on the location for the Seven Oaks Dam and a cost share arrangement for the local cost of the Dam's construction. It took significant negotiations between the USACE and the three Counties to arrive at the current location of the dam and a cost share arrangement between the three Counties for the local cost share for the dam. Since the USACE analysis determined the Seven Oaks Dam contributed 90 per cent of its flood protection capacity to Orange County, Orange County agreed to contribute 90 percent of the local construction cost share for the Seven Oaks Dam.
- f. In addition, the USACE agreed to include the Mill Creek and San Timoteo Creek flood protection projects in San Bernardino County and Oak Street Drain project in Riverside County.
- g. Prior to the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam, all of Western Orange County from the cities of Yorba Linda to Buena Park and portions of Western New Port Beach to Seal Beach were included the FEMA floodplain requiring homeowners and business in the flood plain to purchase flood insurance for those with federal backed mortgage insurance.
- h. With the construction of Seven Oaks Dam and the channel improvements on the Lower Santa Ana River in Orange County along with the existing flood protection capacity of the existing Prado Dam, FEMA determine Orange County was protected from the Santa Ana River 100 year flood event and the FEMA 100 year Santa Ana River floodplain map was removed.
- i. Herb reported the status of the Right of Way acquisition of the last remaining property through eminent domain continues along with negotiations with the Edison Company on the relocation of its power lines located within the Prado Basin.
- j. The USACE has indicated it will award a construction contract on the Prado Dam Spillway reconstruction pending completion of rights of way acquisitions and utility relocations in the Prado basin.

Westminster East Garden Grove Project:

- a. Herb reported the improvements to allow increase flood flows under the Warner Avenue, Springdale and Edwards bridges on the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel have been completed.
- b. County staff continues to lobby the USACE to submit the Westminster East Garden Grove project to Congress for initial appropriation thereby allowing the County to seek reimbursements for its expenditures on the Project.

5. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone

Executive Director Herb Nakasone Report on Santiago Creek:

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Herb reported Congressman Correa introduced language in the Water Resources Development Act on Santiago Creek which allows the project to be constructed as two separate projects. The projects are identified as an Upper Reach which includes the Santiago Pits and the Lower Creek which includes the creek improvements from the I-5 Freeway to the Santa Ana River. Congressman Correa's intents to allow the upper reach of the Creek which includes the Santiago pits to proceed while the USACE and the County are able to prepare a design that satisfies residents on the lower reach of the creek who desire to have a design to preserve the natural features of the creek.

6. Public and Representative Comments

No comments received.

7. Adjournment – Chairman

Meeting Adjourned by Chairman Pat Burns adjourned Meeting at 4:50 pm.

Prepared by Herb Nakasone, Executive Director
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