

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

March 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance/Attendees:

Pat Burns, SARFPA Chairman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District and Mayor, City of Huntington Beach
Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District
Jim Cunneen, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley
Fred Jung, Mayor, City of Fullerton
Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District
Mark Nguyen, Council Member, City of Westminster
James Tyler, Flood Programs Manager, OC Public Works, Alternate for Supervisor Foley
Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach, and Director, OC Water District
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

1. Call to Order

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4048
Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048

Due to the late arrival of Vice-Chairman Pat Burns, Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District Called the Meeting to Order at 4:08 pm.

Email Address:

Herb.Nakasone@ocpw.ocgov.com
hinakasone22@gmail.com

2. Pledge of Allegiance

At the request of Cathy Green, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach.

Phone

(714) 647-3938
(949) 922-1852

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

Location

601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana CA 92701

Approve Minutes of January 23, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting-
The Minutes were unanimously approved on Motion by James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works and Second by Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach

Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

4. Elect SARFPA Chairman and Vice Chairman from Executive Committee- Executive Director

The election of the SARFPA Chairman and Vice Chairman for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25 were held under the supervision of SARFPA Executive Director Herb Nakasone as follows:
Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach made the Motion to appoint current Vice-Chairman Pat Burns to be the Chairman and Cathy Green to be the Vice Chairman for the remainder of the 2024-25 Fiscal Year. With no objections and no additional recommendations or nominations made by members present, Executive Director Herb Nakasone declare Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District

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and Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District as the SARFPA Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25.

5. Fill four (4) vacant Executive Committee positions for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25- Executive Director

Prior to the election of the four (4) vacant Executive Committee positions, Executive Director Herb Nakasone described the Organizational Structure of SARFPA, along with the function of the Executive Committee members and how it administers the daily activities of the SARFPA Organization.

At the request by Executive Director, Herb Nakasone for volunteers to become members of the Executive Committee, and suggested the three new members present consider becoming Executive Committee Members, along with Erik Weigand who has been attending Executive Committee meetings, the following four (4) members volunteered to join the Executive Committee for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25:

Jim Cunneen, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley
Fred Jung, Mayor, City of Fullerton
Mark Nguyen, Council Member, City of Westminster
Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach

6. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone

- a. Herb Nakasone reported the County of Orange CEO has announced Kevin Onuma as the new OC Public Works Director. In addition, Kevin Onuma has announced Justin Golliher as the new Infrastructure Manager, replacing Nardy Khan.
- b. Herb also announced a field trip to Prado or Seven Oaks Dam can be scheduled during July or August of this year if SARFPA members are interested in such a trip.

7. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status - James Tyler

- a. James explained the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is a Cooperative Project between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Local Sponsors of the Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties Flood Control Districts with Orange County Flood Control District financial responsible for approximately 90 per cent of the local share. Each County Flood Control District is responsible for the local share of the project located in their respective County except the Orange County Flood control District is responsible for the local share of Prado Dam.
- b. In addition, 90% of the local share of Seven Oaks Dam including 90% of the maintenance cost for Seven Oaks Dam is the responsibility of OCFCD since Seven Oaks Dam contributes 90% of its flood control benefits to the residents of Orange County. The OCFCD contracts with the San Bernardino to perform the maintenance on Seven Oaks Dam but retains the gate operations of the dam.
- c. Besides Prado Dam features, Orange County Flood Control District is responsible for the Lower Santa Ana improvements and Santiago Creek. All of

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the lower Santa Ana River (SAR) improvements have been completed except for Santiago Creek and a levee height correction project on the Westerly levee of the SAR needed between the S-22 and I-5 freeway. Until the levee height correction is completed, the USACE has indicated it is reducing the maximum out flow allowed to be released from Prado Dam is 20,000 CFS as compared to 30,000 cfs when the levee height correction is completed.

- d. The Prado Dam Spillway is a major feature of the SARP remaining to be constructed and is scheduled to start construction in FY 2026.
- e. The construction of Prado Spillway requires the acquisition of 113 properties behind the dam by Orange County. 112 properties have been acquired to date with the single remaining property acquisition currently under eminent domain proceedings.
- f. Santiago Creek is a local drainage project that has a slope protection of a water recharge basin feature in the City of Orange and discharges into the Santa Ana River in the City of Santa Ana. A handful of residents along the creek in the City of Santa Ana are demanding trees be protected from removal and have caused the project funding to be delayed. Representative Correa who represents the area is proceeding with legislation to separate the water basin feature from the creek protection feature and proposes to allow funding for the water basin slope protection while the USACE negotiates an alternative with the local residents on the tree removal alternative for the lower reaches of Santiago Creek.

8. Westminster East Garden Grove Project (WEGG)

- a. The proposed WEGG Project is the next large flood protection project under way in Orange County. It is a 74 square mile watershed located in the cities of Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Garden Grove and Westminster. The goal of the project is to remove an existing FEMA floodplain and illuminate the requirement to have homeowners and businesses to purchase flood insurance.
- b. The Project has a completed USACE Study has Congressional Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorization. It now needs Congressional Appropriation or funding from Congress before the USACE is allowed to begin construction.
- c. Using local funds, the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) has begun to construct flood protection on several reached of the Project specifically on East Garden Gove Wintersburg Channel with the intention of receiving local cost share credit upon approval of appropriations from Congress.
- d. The Project approved by the WRDA has the OCFCD contributing 75% of the project cost. OCFCD is considering amending the existing approve WRDA project to identify the segment of the project that will meet the National Economic Development (NRD) criteria thereby allowing the USACE to contribute 75% of the project cost instead of the 25% currently allowed un the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP).
- e. In addition, the NED Plan allows for State reimbursement of 75% of the local share of the cost. The effort to change the WRDA plan requires significant congressional effort and lobbying cost which will require Board of Supervisors and Cites affected by the project to arrive at a coordinated plan.

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- f. In the meantime, the OCFCD plans to continue with constructing segments on the EGGW Channel with its available local funds and attempt to complete channel improvements to the 405 FRWY. Upon completion of construction on the EGGW Channel from the tide gates to the 405 FRWY, the OCFCD proposes to seek FEMA approval for remove a segment of the floodplain downstream from the 405 FRWY.

9. Public Comments: No Public Comments were received

10. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 4:58.

Prepared by Herb Nakasone, Executive Director
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