

# ***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

May 22, 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  
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Michelle Barto, Council Member, City of Newport Beach  
Keith Linker, Engineering Manager, City of Anaheim  
Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District  
Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District  
James Tyler, Flood Programs Manager, OC Public Works, Alternate for Supervisor Foley  
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

Chairman Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District called the meeting to Order at 4:06 pm.

## **Email Address:**

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

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Olsen, Engineering Manager, Orange County Water District.

## **Phone**

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

### **3. Approve Minutes of March 27, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting**

Approve Minutes of March 27, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting -  
The Minutes were unanimously approved on Motion by Pat Burns, SARFPA Chairman and Director, Orange County Sanitation District, and Second by Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District.

## **Location**

601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana CA 92701

## **Website**

[www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa](http://www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa)

### **4. Approve attached proposed SARFPA 2025-26 Budget for submittal to General Membership on June 26, 2025 Agency Meeting.**

Executive Director Herb Nakasone presented the proposed SARFPA FY 2025-26 Budget and describe the reason for the amount of each line item on the Budget totaling \$28,450.00. Herb also reported the Budget allows the yearly dues required from each member to remain at \$1,300.00 per year. The proposed Budget was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee on a Motion by Cathy Green, Director Orange County Water District and Second by Art Perry, Director Art Perry, Director Costa Mesa Sanitary District with the recommendation that it be approved by the members at the Agency Meeting on June 22, 2025. Director, Herb Nakasone reported two-thirds of the membership must approve the Budget for its adoption.

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## **5. Acting as the Nominating Committee, nominate members to serve on the 2025-26 Executive Committee – Executive Director**

On Motion by Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District the existing Executive Committee were nominated to serve as the Executive Committee for FY 2025-26. The members of the Executive Committee present approve the Motion with no objection allowing the nomination of the following members to be placed on the ballot to serve on the FY 2025-26 Executive Committee:

- Pat Burns, Director, OC Sanitation District and, Mayor, City of Huntington Beach
- Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District
- Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.
- James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works, Alternate to Supervisor Foley
- Erik Weigand, Council member, City of Newport Beach
- Jim Cunneen, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley
- Fred Jung, Mayor, City of Fullerton
- Mark Nguyen, Council Member, City of Westminster

## **6. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status - James Tyler**

- a. James Tyler reported the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is a Cooperative Project between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Flood Control Districts. James indicated the major features of the Project are the Seven Oaks Dam, the Prado Dam and the Lower Santa Ana River in Orange County which have been completed. Remaining is the improvement to the Prado Dam spillway and the Santiago Creek improvements in Orange County.
- b. The \$1.35 billion spillway construction as reported by James is scheduled to start in FY 27 with completion in FY 33.
- c. James reported the \$141 million Santiago Creek project in Orange County has a Final Design Report prepared by the USACE awaiting a decision in December 2025 on whether the Project will be funded through BBA funds or regular appropriations. The project has also been divided into two segments allowing the upper bank protection to feature on the Santiago Creek Water recharge basins to proceed while the USACE prepares a design on the lower creek to meet objections from homeowners adjacent the creek.
- d. James reported the bank protection projects in Reach 5 of the Santa Ana River between Weir Canyon Bridge and Prado Dam have been completed by the USACE and is awaiting turnover to the Orange County Flood Control District upon completion of USACE maintenance requirements on the completed projects.
- e. Also reported by James is a construction project on the Santa Ana River to raise the Levee between the I-5 FRWY and the SR -22 Fwy which had been mistakenly lower by a County contract for improvements to a County facility.

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- f. James reported the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) is responsible for acquiring property rights behind Prado Dam and relocating utilities impacted by the rising water level behind the dam prior to commencing construction on the Prado Dam Spillway. The OCFCD has secured the property rights of the 113 properties behind the dam and has negotiated with the utility companies or owners of the utility impacted by the raising of Prado to relocate their utilities.
- g. In response to a question raised by Lisa Haney of the Orange County Water District regarding the disposition of the properties acquired by the OCFCD behind the dam, James indicated the rights acquired on the properties determines the uses allowed. James indicated properties acquired with flowage easement allows the use for flooding only whereas a property acquired in fee can be used for other purposes such as recreation purposes provided the use does not impede the property from being flooded.
- h. James indicated the USACE recently completed the following three property protection projects within the flood limits behind Prado Dam:
  - 1. \$32 million Norco Bluffs Bank Stabilization
  - 2. \$21.4 million Alcoa Dike
  - 3. \$11.4 million River Road Dike

## **Westminster East Garden Grove Project (WEGG)**

- a. Apart from the Santa Ana River Main Stem Project, the OCFCD is involved in partnering with the USACE in the 74 square mile Westminster East Garden Grove Project. As James reported this is another flood protection Project within a large watershed involving the cities of Santa Ana, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Westminster and Garden Grove Orange.
- b. The goal of this project is removing residents and businesses from a FEMA floodplain requiring mandatory flood insurance for those with federally backed loans on their properties. Currently James reports the local residents and businesses pay approximately \$3.5 million per year in FEMA flood insurance premiums.
- c. The Project was authorized by Congress as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and signed by the Presidents as part of the Omnibus Bill December 2020.
- d. The USACE Chiefs Report signed July 9, 2020 estimates the project cost at \$1.2 billion.
- e. James reported the USACE criteria for cost share of projects are based on a National Economic Development (NED) criteria to establish cost share between local sponsor such as the OCFCD and the USACE.
- f. The Chiefs report compares the cost and benefit of a project which establishes the NED ratio. If the cost to benefit is less than one the USACE is allowed to only contribute a share of the project meeting the NED requirement. As a result, the local share of the Westminster Project is \$910 million and the USACE share is the NED amount of \$310 which is not beneficial to the local sponsor.
- g. As a result, the OCFCD is working with its lobbyist to change the cost share. In the meantime, the OCFCD is moving ahead to construct segments of the Project using its local funds in anticipation the Project scope be adjusted, and agreement can be reached with the USACE to qualify the project and allow the

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segments being constructed with local funds to be credited to the OCFCD as its local cost share.

- h. The OCFCD anticipates completing bridge improvements at Warner Ave., Springdale, and Edwards crossings in 2025 on the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel to convey the design flows under the bridges.

## **7. Executive Directors Report- Report from Herbert Nakasone, Executive Director**

Executive Director Herbert Nakasone announce he plans to terminate his position as the SARFPA Executive Director at the end of August 31, 2025. He will assist in recruiting a replacement for consideration by the Executive Committee.

## **8. Public Comments: No Public Comments were received**

## **9. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 4:58.**

Prepared by Herb Nakasone, Executive Director  
Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency