

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Herbert I. Nakasone

SARFPA FULL AGENCY 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

June 26, 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
Jim Cunneen, Council Member, City of Fountain Valley
Jeremy Yamaguchi, Council Member, City of Placentia
Denis Bilodeau, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Orange
Erik Weigand, Council Member, City of Newport Beach: Director, Orange County Water District
Kathleen Treseder, Council Member, City of Irvine
Lee Fink, Council Member, City of Tustin
Shivinder Singh, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda
Ryan Bouley, 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

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Location

601 N. Ross Street
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Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

1. Call to Order

Chairman Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District and Mayor of Huntington Beach called the meeting to Order at 4:05 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.

3. Approve Minutes of May 22, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting - Chairman

The Minutes were unanimously approved on Motion by Pat Burns, SARFPA Chairman and Director, Orange County Sanitation District, and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.

4. Approve propose SARFPA 2025-26 Budget attached - Chairman

FY 2025-26 SARFPA Budget attached to the Agenda was unanimously approve on Motion by Chairman Pat Burns, Director Orange County Sanitation District, Mayor City of Huntington Beach and Second by Second by Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Sanitation District.

5. Nomination members for election to serve on the FY 2025-26 - Executive Director

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On Motion by Denis Bilodeau Mayor Pro Tem, City of Orange and Second by Jeremy Yamaguchi, Council Member, City of Placentia the list of individuals listed below as recommended by the Existing Executive Committee were nominated 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

Executive Director Herb Nakasone than opened the nomination from the floor for addition nominations. Hearing no additional nominations, the nominations were closed, and the list of individuals listed above were unanimously approved to serve as the Executive Committee for FY 2025-26.

In accordance with the adopted By Laws, the Executive Director administered the selection of the SARFPA Chairman and Vice Chair from among the newly elected Executive Committee by requesting a Motion and Second for selection of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

On a motion by Denis Bilodeau, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Orange and Second by Jeremy Yamaguchi, Council Member, City of Placentia, Pat Burns, Director Orange County Sanitation District and Mayor, City of Huntington Beach and Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District were unanimous elected as the FY 2025-26 Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

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

- a. Using a power point presentation with exhibits, James Tyler began his report by explaining the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARMP) is a cooperative project between the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the local sponsors of the Orange County, Riverside County and San Bernardino County Flood Control Districts.
- b. James explained the main features of the SARFP providing flood protection to Orange County which includes Seven Oaks Dam and the levee improvements on the Santa Ana River in Orange County have been completed. The remaining SARP features to be constructed includes three construction projects behind Prado Dam, the spillway of the Prado Dam and the Santiago Creek project in Orange County. The \$1.35 billion Prado Dam Spillway improvements is the largest and most expensive feature yet to be completed.

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- c. On the Santiago Creek Project, the USACE is evaluating the language introduced by Representative Correa in the Water Resources Development Act and its impact on its construction before it proceeds on the final design on the Project.
- d. James reported the bank protection projects on the Santa Ana River between Prado Dam and Weir Canyon bridge have been completed by the USACE but due to the maintenance requirements needing completion on these projects, the turnover to the Orange County Flood Control District is scheduled to occur after the maintenance requirements have been completed by the USACE.
- e. During an annual inspection by the USACE on the SARFP, the levee height between SR -22 and I -5 was determined to be lower than the height required by the design plans thereby requiring the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) to correct the deficiency. James reported the Flood Control District plans to award a construct contract shortly to correct the deficiency.
- f. Reporting on the status of the Prado Dam activities, James indicated the OCFCD is required to acquire properties and relocate utilities impacted by the proposed raising of the Prado Dam spillway which extends the flooding area behind the dam. According to James, the OCFCD has secured all of the property required behind the Dam including a large parcel under eminent domain proceedings. In regards to utilities, all of the utilities except for the Edison Company have been relocated or in the process of being relocated. The Edison Company has major electrical power lines crossing the basin behind the dam and need to have the lines raised above the flood height or relocated. Because the USACE has the property rights behind the dam, James believes the OCFCD will prevail in discussion with the Edison Company.
- g. The USACE have completed three property dike protection projects behind Prado Dam that are scheduled for completion this calendar year with the expectation that they will be turned over to the OCFCD for maintenance in FY 2026.
- h. James reported the USACE recently awarded a design contract to a construction contractor to work with the USACE in developing a design for the Prado Dam spillway.
- i. James responded to a question raised by new SARFPA members regarding the need for the dike construction behind the Prado Dam. James reported the need for dikes behind the dam is to prevent flooding of homes and businesses due to the rise of the water surface behind the dam due to the raising of the spillway. James also explained the basis of acquiring property in fee versus easement is generally due to large parcels require restriction on the use of the property whereas small parcels with minimal flooding impact such as strips of land on the edge of a property can be controlled by an easement.

Westminster East Garden Grove Project:

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- a. James reported the Westminster East Garden Grove (WEGG) Project is proposed to provide flood protection in the second largest watershed in Orange County affecting the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Westminster, Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley.
- b. James explained the purpose of the project is to provide flood protection and thereby remove residences and businesses from the FEMA designated 100-year floodplain due to the deficient WEGG drainage channel. By improving the deficient earthen WEGG channel with a combination of metal sheet piles and concrete walls to contain the anticipated 100-year storm discharge, the project's goal is to eliminate the need for the FEMA prepared floodplain map thereby removing the mandatory flood insurance requirement on the property owners within the designated floodplain.
- c. According to James, the most recent information on the total yearly flood insurance premiums paid by property owners in the designate WEGG floodplain is \$3.4 million.
- d. In answer to a question on the flood insurance requirement upon completion of the WEGG Project, James replied the mandatory flood insurance will no longer be required for homeowners and businesses when the WEGG Project is completed. Upon removal of the FEMA designate floodplain, residents and businesses can voluntarily purchase flood insurance for those who want to have flood insurance protection which should be at a lower insurance rate.
- e. The USACE submitted a Chief's Report on the 1.2 billion WEGG project to Congress which was authorized as part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. The project authorization allows the USACE to pursue a cooperative project with the Orange County Flood Control District.
- f. The USACE in preparing a cost benefit analysis of the WEGG Project determined that the project did not meet the federal National Economic Development requirement with a one to one or greater cost to benefit ratio on the Project and therefore is not allowed to participate in a three (USACE) to one (local) construction cost share agreement.
- g. According to James, since the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) desires the Project to provide a 100-year level of protection. The cost share for the \$1.2 billion project cost would be three (3) local to one (1) USACE or \$910M local share to \$315 USACE. The Orange County Flood Control District has not yet negotiated a cost share agreement with the USACE.
- h. Since flood protection to local residents in the watershed is needed, James reported the OCFCD is proceeding with construction on segments of the EGGW project with its local funds and is negotiating with the USACE to receive credit toward its share of the total WEGG Project cost when approved by Congress.

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

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- a. Herb announced the option of scheduling a field trip to Prado Dam in August. After discussions among the members, Wednesday August 6, 2025 was selected as the date for the field trip. Transportation will be provided by County of Orange staff. Pickup at the Orange County Water District parking lot is scheduled at 9 am and at the ARTIC (AMTRAC) facility parking lot in Anaheim.
- b. In an update on his termination date, Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported he will remain beyond August 30 until a replacement is found.

8. Public Comments: No Public Comments were received

9. Adjournment – Chairman Pat Burns

Chairman Pat Burns adjourned the Meeting at 4:50.

Prepared by Herb Nakasone, Executive Director
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