

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

January 24, 2019 at 4:05 p.m.

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA

Attendance/Attendees:

Jim Ferryman, SARFPA Chairman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District
Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Vice-Chairwoman, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach
Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim
Rudy Emami, Director of Public Works, City of Anaheim
Stacy Berry, Mayor, City of Cypress
Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley
Farrah N. Khan, Councilwoman, City of Irvine
Sandra Massa-Lavitt, Councilwoman, City of Seal Beach
Austin Lumbard, Councilman, City of Tustin
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Nardy Khan, Deputy Director, OC Public Works
James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works
Herbert Nakasone, SARFPA Executive Director

Mailing Address

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

Email Address:

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

Phone

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

Location

300 N. Flower, Room 756
Santa Ana CA 92703

Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Jim Ferryman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jim Ferryman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District.

3. Approval of January 24, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the January 24, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting were approved on Motion by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District and Second by Stacy Berry, Mayor, City of Cypress.

New members abstaining were Farrah N. Khan, Councilwoman, City of Irvine; Austin Lumbard, Councilman, City of Tustin; Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley; Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District; and Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim.

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4. Report from Washington D.C., Advocate Jim McConnell

Jim McConnell provided his report via telephone as follows:

- a. Jim reported that the Federal Government is currently shut down with both houses attempting to develop a Federal Budget that the President would approve.
- b. The President has indicated he would declare a National Emergency if Congress does not provide the \$5 billion in the Budget and divert \$7 billion from various federal programs to fund construction of the border wall.
- c. It is anticipated \$3 billion would be diverted from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) construction appropriations to fund the border wall.
- d. In addition to diverting \$3 billion from the USACE budget, a concern is USACE personnel would also be diverted to accomplish the border wall construction, thereby seriously affecting the USACE capabilities to implement its existing construction projects.
- e. Jim indicated the House of Representatives would go to Court to request an injunction of the declared National Emergency.
- f. Per Jim, the USACE will support the President as its Commander in Chief, in diverting funding for the border wall construction. The USACE construction projects to be affected are still to be determined.

5. Santa Ana River Mainstem (SARP) and the Westminster Watershed Study (Study)

James Tyler, OC Public Works Engineering Manager, reported that the SARP projects have received adequate funding and the following:

- a. James reported bridge foundation protection work on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad bridge in the Santa Ana Canyon is currently under way. This rail line is an important segment of the Country's rail system for moving goods from the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors to the East with 75 freight trains passing over the bridge daily. The \$51 million railroad bridge protection project is scheduled for completion in April 2022.
- b. A \$15 million soil cement levee embankment identified as Reach 9-Phase 4 on the Southerly Bank of the Santa Ana River Upstream of Featherly Regional Park adjacent to the 91 Freeway, is scheduled for completion this February.
- c. The bank protection projects adjacent to the City of Yorba Linda identified as Reach 9-Phase 5A and 5B are moving forward on schedule, with the 5A project completed in January 2019 and 5B scheduled for completion in January 2020.
- d. James indicated the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) is continuing to purchase properties behind Prado Dam and reported 1,261 acres have been acquired to date at a cost of \$199 million, with 444 additional acres estimated to cost \$157 million scheduled to be acquired. The 226 acres of fee and flowage easements are schedule to be acquired

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in the next three years. All the property acquisition behind Prado Dam needs to be acquired before the spillway, which is the last phase of the Dam improvement, can be raised and allow the Dam to be fully operational to provide the desired 190-year level of protection to Orange County.

- e. Funding for the property acquisition behind Prado Dam are funded from the OCFCD property tax revenue and State of California Subventions, which funds 70% of the SARP project cost.
- f. James reported the USACE recently indicated they have estimated the cost for the SARP has risen to \$2.6 billion from \$2.4 billion, requiring addition authorization from Congress to fund the increase in cost. Congress cannot fund the increase in cost unless it authorizes the new total project cost.
- g. James also indicated the USACE is beginning to review the requirements of the Santiago Creek Project segment of the SARP. The initial Phase II General Design Memorandum (GDM) and Environmental document identified channel improvements to Santiago Creek Downstream from the I-5 Freeway to the Santa Ana River and a gated outlet at the Orange County Water District Santiago groundwater recharge pits.

5A. Update on the Westminster Watershed Study (Study) Status

James Tyler reported as follows:

- a. The USACE received an additional \$2 million for the Study, including the County's share, assuring completion of the Study.
- b. The Draft Feasibility Report on the Study identified the USACE Tentative Selected Plan (TSP) cost estimate at \$956 million and the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) estimated at \$1.12 billion.
- c. Public meetings were held in the Cities of Westminster and Huntington Beach on November 5, 2018 and November 7, 2018 respectively where public comments were received.
- d. Work on the Study continues with the following key milestones:
 - 1. Agency Decision Milestone – Completed January 2019
 - 2. Completion of Draft Report – September 2019
 - 3. Chief's Report – January 2020
- e. James reiterated that residents in the 100-year Floodplain located in the Westminster Watershed are required to have flood insurance, if they have any type of federal insured loans on their home. Residents in the Westminster Watershed pay \$10 million in flood insurance premiums per year. The Study's TSP is intended to remove the mandatory requirement for flood insurance.

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Herb Nakasone provided the following report:

- a. Scheduling meetings with existing and new Congressional Members and their local staff are recommended for the coming year to explain the

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need for their support on the SARP and the Study.

- b. SARFPA's organizational structure was explained to the new members as follows:
 1. SARFPA has seven meetings per year. Two are Full Agency meetings and five are Executive Committee meetings.
 2. The Full Agency meetings are held in June and November. The June meeting is the most important, as the yearly budget is voted and requires two-thirds approval of its members.
 3. The SARFPA Bylaws calls for an eight-member Executive Committee, which are elected at the Full Agency June meeting. The Executive Committee directs the Executive Director in the administration of SARFPA's activities.
 4. A Chairman and Vice-Chairman is chosen by the Executive Committee members for each fiscal year.
 5. SARFPA's Bylaws along with meeting Agendas, Minutes, Executive Committee members, Cities and Special Districts, who are SARFPA members are posted on its website at the following link:
www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa
 6. While Executive Committee meetings are open to all members, agenda items requiring a vote can only be acted upon by the Executive Committee.
- c. The Executive Director reported two vacancies currently exist on the Executive Committee and any members interested in serving on the Executive Committee are encouraged to contact Executive Director Herb Nakasone or the SARFPA Chairman Jim Ferryman.

7. Public and Representative Comments

- a. Kelly Rowe of the Orange County Water District explained his background with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and offered his assistance for those who may have need of his experience.
- b. Nardy Khan, OC Public Works Engineering Deputy Director reported on the activities of OC Public Works' Management in monitoring the SARP and the Study.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. by Chairman Jim Ferryman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District.