

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

## **Executive Director**

Herbert I. Nakasone

## **SARFPA FULL AGENCY 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

November 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

### **Attendance/Attendees:**

Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Chairwoman, Councilmember, City of Huntington Beach

Stacy Berry, SARFPA Vice-Chairwoman, Councilmember, City of Cypress

Connor Traut, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Buena Park

Steve Faessel, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Anaheim

Jim Ferryman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District

Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District

Patrick Harper, Councilmember, City of Fountain Valley

Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District

Tri Ta, Director, Orange County Water District, Mayor, City of Westminster

Jeremy Yamaguchi, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Placentia

James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OCPW, Alternate for Supervisor Donald Wagner

Marwan Youssef, Public Works Director, City of Westminster

James McConnell, SARFPA's Washington DC Advocate

Rob Thompson, Assistant General Manager, Orange County Sanitation District

Jordan Michael Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District

Kevin O'Toole, Guest

Catherine Green, Flood Programs, OC Public Works

Hong Alyce Van, Council Member, City of Stanton

Pipit Widjaja, Assistant to SARFPA Executive Director

Herb Nakasone, SARFP Executive Director

### **Mailing Address**

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### **Location**

601 N. Ross Street  
Santa Ana CA 92701

### **Website**

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

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting Called to Order at 4:04 p.m. by Barbara Delgleize.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Past Chairman Jim Ferryman.

#### **3. Approval of June 25, 2020 Semi-Annual Agency Meeting Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously on Motion by Cathy Green, Director, Orange County Water District and Second by Stacy Berry, Council Member, City of Cypress.

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

SARFPA's Washington DC Advocate, Jim McConnell, reported the following:

- a. A Blue Wave of new democrats as expected by the Democrat Party did not occur in the House of Representatives and lost 7 to 8 seats to the Republicans

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although the Democratic Party still has a majority in the House of Representatives.

- b. In the Senate, the Republican Party seem to have won sufficient seats to continue as the majority Party since the Democrats did not win sufficient new seats as they were predicting. However, two Senate seats in the State of Georgia are currently scheduled for a runoff between the four candidates, (two Republicans and two Democrats, with the highest votes during the Nov. 3rd elections) which will determine who will have a majority in the Senate.
- c. Since Presidential Trump is not conceding the presidential race Jim indicated legislation is currently in disarray in Washington DC which may have an impact on the WRDA 2020 process along with the Appropriation Bills to fund the government beyond December 12, 2021.
- d. However, Jim believes the current Congress is not inclined to allow the government to shut down and he expects some sort of Appropriation Bill or a Continuing Resolution to keep the government operating.
- e. Although a lot of unknowns exist on legislation for WRDA, Jim believes a WRDA Bill if not adopted in FY 2020 will be drafted in FY 2021.
- f. In regard to funding on the Santa Ana River, Jim reports sufficient funding has been appropriated in FY 2020 to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue with its construction projects.

## **5. Report from O.C. Public Works on Santa Ana River Mainstem Project Construction and property acquisition Status and Westminster Watershed Project Status**

### **Santa Ana River Mainstem Project**

- a. James Tyler, using a Power Point Presentation, summarized the main features of the entire Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP) and identified the completed Seven Oaks Dam, Prado Dam and the Lower Santa Ana River in Orange County as the main features where the Orange County Flood Control District(OCFCD) is the lead local sponsor of the project responsible for financing the local share of the these features and there eventual maintenance.
- b. James Tyler reported the USACE recently received \$2.8 billion to complete the remaining Prado Dam and Lower Santa Ana River features of the SARP excluding the Lower Santiago Creek, which the OCFCD has tentatively agreed to complete. This additional \$2.8 billion is a major change in direction by Congress to complete the SARP which had been funding small amounts of appropriation in the past that have prevented the timely project completion.
- c. The \$2.8 billion funding also included funds for acquisition of properties in the Prado Basin behind the dam. All of the remaining features on the Santa Ana River below Prado Dam such as the Reach 9 bank protection projects and the flood risk reduction projects in the Prado basin including the Norco Bluffs bank protection, River Road and the Prado spillway are being scheduled for completion by FY 2023.
- d. In regards property acquisition in the Prado Basin behind the Dam, James reports the County and USACE staff have agreed to eliminate 193 small flood easement acquisitions on portions of the back yards on mostly single family residents. In addition, ten larger parcels under consideration for development

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have been eliminated from acquisition as a result of the developers agreeing to raise the properties above the flood elevation thereby removing the need for the OCFCD to acquire these properties. The result is 52 properties remain to be acquired after deleting 203 properties.

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

- a. James indicated the Westminster/East Garden Grove Project is the next major flood reduction project the OCFCD is undertaking with the USACE to provide 100-year level of protection and remove the largest current National Flood Insurance floodplain in the County. To assist the OCFCD in constructing the flood reduction project, a joint OCFCD/USACE flood control project report titled the Westminster/Watershed Report was completed by the USACE in July 2020.
- b. The first step in seeking federal authorization and expenditures is to prepare a report by the USACE and have the project included in the Water Resources Development Act which is normally address every two years.
- c. The Westminster Watershed Study was completed by the USACE in July 2020 and contained two alternatives. The first alternative was identified as the National Economical Development (NED) Plan and the second alternative identified as the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) which provides a 100 year level of protection and will remove the National Flood Insurance floodplain. The LPP is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion. The Orange County Flood Control District requested and the USACE agreed to pursue the LPP with Congress and included the project for submittal in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- d. The \$1.2 billion LPP is to be funded with Federal funding of \$315 million and \$910 million of Orange County Flood Control (OCFCD) funds. According to James Tyler the OCFCD anticipates to fund its \$910 million from property tax revenue and re-imburements from the State of California Subvention program for 70 percent of its expenditures on the LPP
- e. The Westminster Study recommended LPP is currently included in both the House of Representatives and Senate version of the WRDA. WRDA as of this date has not yet been approved by Congress. Only after WRDA, with the LPP included, is approved by Congress can funding for the LPP be included in the USACE construction budget.
- f. As James McConnell reported earlier, he believes a WRDA will be adopted by the end of the year or soon after the first of the year by the new Congress. Upon passage of WRDA, James McConnell indicated the next phase is to have the County of Orange with the assistance of SARFPA to communicate with the new Administration's Office of Management and Budget the need to fund the LPP as a "New Start Project" in the 2021 Appropriation Bill for the USACE.
- g. James Tyler reported that the Orange County Flood Control District has awarded a \$81.1 million Design Build construction contract on the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel segment of the LPP from Warner Avenue upstream to Golden West Avenue in the City of Huntington Beach. James indicated the cost of this Design and Build contract will be consistent with the USACE LPP and be credited towards the OCFCD's \$910 million cost of the LPP.

## **6. Report from Executive Director Herb Nakasone:**

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- a. Executive Director, Herb Nakasone presented the 2021 SARFPA meeting schedule and requested its approval by the members. On a motion by the Executive Director and second by Jim Ferryman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District, the 2021 SARFPA Meeting Schedule was unanimously approved. The meeting schedule will be mailed to each member and their alternates.
- b. Herb Nakasone reported he will be attempting to schedule meetings for SARFPA members with our new Congressional Representative Steel and current Congressional members and will be communicating with Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize along with other interested SARFPA members on their availability. These meeting will also be coordinated with the County of Orange Public Works Legislative Coordinator Francisco Rojas.

## **7. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize at 4:55 PM.

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