

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

March 28, 2019 at 4:05 p.m.
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA

Attendance/Attendees:

Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Vice-Chairwoman, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach
George Brietigam, Councilman, City of Garden Grove
Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim
Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley
Sandra Massa-Lavitt, Councilwoman, City of Seal Beach
LaShe Rodriguez, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Conner Traut, Councilman, City of Buena Park
Marwan Youssef, Public Works Director, City of Westminster, Alternate
Ahmad Zahra, Director, Orange County Water District, Councilman, City of Fullerton
James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works, Fifth District Alternate
Penny Lew, Engineering Supervisor, 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 Vice-Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley.

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 Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim and Second by Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley.

4. Appointment of Vacancies on Executive Committee

Action deferred due to lack of Executive Committee quorum.

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

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Jim McConnell is under contract with SARFPA to update us on the activities underway in Washington D.C. with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Congress on the Santa Ana River Project (SARP) and the Westminster Watershed Study (Study). Jim reported by telephone the following:

- a. Jim reported USACE staff have indicated the recent Supplemental funding of \$170 million along with the 2018-19 appropriations for SARP has provided sufficient funding to complete the construction of SARP.
- b. Jim also indicated USACE staff were optimistic that additional Supplemental funding would be provided if necessary to complete construction of SARP.
- c. In regard to property acquisitions for Prado Dam, Jim indicated the USACE estimates Orange County has \$260 million in property acquisitions remaining. James Tyler of OC Public Works (OCPW) indicated his estimate of property acquisitions at Prado Dam is \$157 million but admitted estimating property acquisitions is a difficult task and the actual value maybe in between these two estimates.
- d. In regard to the Westminster Watershed Study (Study), Jim confirmed the final Chief's Report on the project is scheduled for completion in January 2020. The Chief's Report is the title given by the USACE of its final report on a study accomplished by the Army. The Chief of the USACE is a three-star Lieutenant General who's given the title of Chief of Engineers.
- e. The completion of the Chief's Report on the Study in January 2020 poses a problem since it may not be sufficient time to include the project in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The USACE identifies projects it considers ready for consideration for the next WRDA by April or May of the year prior, or for the 2020 WRDA, the list is identified in April or May of 2019.
- f. Jim indicated the challenge for the County, it's Washington D.C. Lobbyist and Orange County's Congressional representatives, is to find a way to include the Study in a 2020 WRDA.
- g. After Jim's report, Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley asked if any of the SARP funds could be affected by President Trump's Emergency Declaration. Jim replied the USACE believes other defense types projects are more likely to be used rather than the Civil Works projects, such as the SARP.

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

James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OCPW, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the SARP, a copy was included in the Agenda package:

- a. James explained SARP is a massive \$2.3 billion joint flood control construction project between the federal government lead by the USACE and the Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino flood control districts.

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

- b. As explained by James, SARP provides flood protection to 3 million people and damages totaling \$15 billion from overflows of the Santa Ana River to the Counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.
- c. As outline in the handouts provided by James, the completed features of the project include the Seven Oaks Dam in San Bernardino County, the raising of Prado Dam with the exception of the spillway improvements and channel improvements to the Santa Ana River in Orange County. These major improvements have provided a 100-year level of protection from overflows of the Santa Ana River to Orange County residents.
- d. Bank protection in the form of cement grouted rock, sheet pile and soil cement are currently underway in the Santa Ana Canyon, identified by the USACE as Reach 9 between Weir Canyon Bridge in Yorba Linda and Orange County/Riverside County line. Protection of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad Bridge downstream of Prado Dam is also underway. The schedules of these bank protection projects are intended to be completed prior to the completion of improvements at Prado Dam to allow for maximum water releases from the dam.
- e. James included a table of the SARP Cost Summary indicating the current estimated total project cost of \$2.618 billion with \$935,000 million being the local sponsor cost. The table also indicated \$2,042 billion allocated to date with a balance of \$576 million needed to complete SARP.
- f. Another table included in James' presentation reported the USACE goal is to complete SARP by Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This schedule would require OCPW to acquire all the right of ways behind Prado Dam prior to FY23.
- g. James explained the property acquisitions schedule at Prado Dam, as outline in his exhibit, have a desired completion date of 2020 to meet the USACE schedule of completing Prado Dam improvements by 2023.

6A. Update on the Westminster Watershed Study (Study) Status

Penny Lew, Engineering Supervisor, OCPW, reported on the status of the Study as follows:

- a. Penny provided a PowerPoint overview of the Study, a copy was included in the Agenda package, distributed to all in attendance. Penny explained the Study covers a 74-square mile watershed with a population of approximately 250,000 in the Cities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Seal Beach and a small portion of Anaheim.
- b. The Study as reported by Penny, is to remove the largest remaining floodplain in Orange County by upgrading existing flood control channels capable of providing 100-year level of flood protection
- c. The Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) improvements in the Study will remove the existing 100-year FEMA floodplain identified in the Federal Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), which currently requires at least 6,500 mandatory flood insurance premiums totaling more than \$11 million annually to be paid by home owners in the Study area.

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

- d. As explained by Penny, the Study is being done by the USACE as a 50/50 cost share between the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) and the USACE.
- e. The Study has been allocated \$2.1 million in Supplemental Appropriations by Congress to complete the Study by January 2020.
- f. Per Penny, the Study has two alternatives: The LPP, which provides a 100-year level of protection and the National Economic Development (NED) plan, which has a less than 100-year level of protection, but higher Benefit cost Ratio (BCR) of 3.3. The LPP has a BCR of 2.2.
- g. The Study reports the NED plan has a cost of \$823,000, while the LPP has a cost of \$1,476,000. The Local Sponsor, which is the OCFCD, is obligated to pay the difference in cost between the two alternative projects.
- h. According to Penny, the USACE is currently reviewing the technical details of the Study by having an independent review and finalizing the cost estimates. The USACE reports it is on schedule to have the Chief's Report (final report) signed by January 2020. A more specific schedule is included in Penny's PowerPoint presentation and shows the USACE Final Report to be completed sometime between July and September 2019.
- i. Penny reported the OCFCD, despite the lack of decisions on the funding of a USACE construction project, is continuing to construct flood control channel improvements and currently has the following three construction projects scheduled on the CO5 East Garden Grove-Wintersberg Channel reaches:
 - 1. Warner to Goldenwest: FY19-20 and FY20-21.
 - 2. CO5 Confluence with CO6 to Beach Blvd: FY21-22.
 - 3. CO5 at Beach Blvd. to Woodruff Ave: FY22-23.
- j. According to Penny, the County staff plan to seek Letters of Map Revisions (LOMR) with FEMA when sufficient channel improvement are made on the CO5 channel to allow for the removal of all or portions of the existing FEMA floodplain.

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Herb Nakasone provide a copy of SARFPA's website in the agenda package and describe the information contained on the site, such as Meeting Minutes, Meeting Schedule, SARFPA By-Laws, members of SARFPA, Executive Committee members and other information such as contact phone numbers and email information.

8. Public and Representative Comments

No public comments were received.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. by Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Vice-Chairwoman, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach