

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

May 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA

Attendance/Attendees:

Barbara Delgleize, SARFPA Executive Committee, Vice-Chairwoman; Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach
Stacy Berry, SARFPA Executive Committee; Mayor, City of Cypress
Art Perry, SARFPA Executive Committee; Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Cathy Green, SARFPA Executive Committee; Director, Orange County Water District
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
Mike Marcus, General Manager, Orange County Water District
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Denis Bilodeau, Director, Orange County Water District
Jordan Brandman, Director, Orange County Water District
Doug Chaffe, Supervisor Fourth District, County of Orange
James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works, Third District Alternate
Herbert Nakasone, Executive Director, SARFPA

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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 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Sandra Massa-Lavitt, Councilwoman, City of Seal Beach.

3. Approval of March 28, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the March 28, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting were approved on a Motion by Sandra Massa-Lavitt, Councilwoman, City of Seal Beach and Second by George Brietigam, Councilman, City of Garden Grove.

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

Jim McConnell, who is under contract with the Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency (SARFPA), reported on the following:

- a. Jim reported the USACE Budget for 2020 has sufficient funding for the

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SARP, despite the current impasse between the President and the House of Representatives on the 2021 Infrastructure Budget.

- b. Jim indicated he is somewhat confused about the recent article in the Register on the change to a higher Risk Level by the USACE on Prado Dam, since improvements to Prado Dam and its spillway were always contemplated. Nonetheless, Jim believes the change in risk level to Prado Dam will result in increased funding for the SARP.

In regard to the news article, several SARFPA members including Sandra Massa-Lavitt, Patrick Harper and others have asked for clarification on the impact of the USACE's change in the risk level.

Mike Marcus, General Manager, Orange County Water District, reported he discussed the issue with David Van Dorpe of the USACE-LA District, who indicated the change in risk level is the result of a recent inspection of the Prado Dam concrete spillway, which revealed small amount of separation between concrete slabs and voids of up to three feet beneath the slabs. The USACE will be scheduling the repair of these deficiencies with the schedule work on raising the dam's spillway and the side walls.

Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported he was provided a memo to the OC Public Works (OCPW) from the USACE, which states in part "There is no evidence to suggest an emergency exist or is about to exist."

- c. In regard to the Westminster Project, Jim indicated the deadline for including USACE Projects into the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is April 2019. Pending an unusual action by the House Water Resources and Environmental Committee, he believes a delay in developing a 2020 WRDA until 2021 is likely and would be an advantage, including the Westminster Project in the next WRDA.

5. Appointment of Vacancies on Executive Committee

The appointment of vacancies on the Executive Committee is deferred to the June 27, 2019 Full Agency Meeting.

6. Executive Director's Recommended 2019-2020 SARFPA Budget

The proposed 2019-2020 SARFPA Budget was approved for presentation to SARFPA members at the June 27, 2019 Full Agency Meeting on a Motion by Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim and Second by Patrick Harper, Councilman, City of Fountain Valley.

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

James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OCPW, provided an update on the SARP and Study as follows:

- a. James initiated his presentation by summarizing the major features of the

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SARP, such as Seven Oaks Dam, the raising of Prado Dam and the channel improvements in the Lower Santa Ana River, all of which have been completed and currently provide a 100-year flood protection to Orange County.

- b. James reported the current estimated SARP cost is \$2,618,000 with the Federal cost of \$1,683,000 and the local cost of \$935,000.
- c. According to James, the remaining features of the SARP is scheduled to be completed by 2023 include the following:
 - I. Norco Bluffs Toe Protection
 - II. Santiago Creek
 - III. Prado Spillway
 - IV. Property Acquisitions at Prado Dam
 - V. Alcoa Dike
 - VI. River Road Dike
 - VII. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Bridge
 - VIII. Embankment Protection in the Santa Ana River Canyon (Reach 9) below Prado Dam.
- d. Property acquisition at Prado Dam continues to be a priority for the County per James, with 205 properties yet to be acquired at a cost of \$157 million and has an ambitious program of completing acquisitions by 2021.
- e. In regard to the Westminster Watershed Study (Study), James indicated the USACE expects to have the final report to USACE Headquarters for its review by September 2019 and the Chief's Report (completed report) by January 2020. It is also critical for the Chief's Report to have the Locally Preferred Plan (LLP), which provides a 100-year level of protection. Thereby removing the existing FIRM Floodplain.
- f. The Chief's Report on the Study is critical because it is needed before it can be included by Congress in the WRDA, thereby allowing the USACE to request authorization of the project.
- g. James reported OCPW is proposing to initiate construction on segments of flood control improvements identified in the Study, such as on the East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel. Once the Chief's report is completed, OCPW will be seeking financial credit towards its share of the project cost authorized in WRDA.

9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Herb Nakasone reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Representative Rouda for July 1, 2019. Additional information on the meeting will be discussed during the June 27, 2019 Full Agency Meeting.

10. Public and Representative Comments

No public comments were received.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m. by Vice-Chairwoman Barbara Delgleize, Councilwoman, City of Huntington Beach.

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