
Agencies Come Together to Celebrate Completion of Santa Ana River Interceptor (SARI) Line Relocation Project

December 11, 2014

Nearly 200 elected officials and agency representatives gathered on December 11 in Corona near the Orange County/Riverside County border to celebrate the completion of the Santa Ana River Interceptor (SARI) line relocation project, a 54-inch diameter wastewater pipeline located south of the Santa Ana River and adjacent to the SR-91 freeway.

The successful relocation of the line will allow nearby Prado Dam and the downstream channel to operate at full capacity – which equates to a release of approximately 13.5 million gallons per minute. In the end, the project means better flood protection in communities in the surrounding region.

“I was honored to be there to mark this major accomplishment and celebrate the tireless efforts by the many OCPW staff who worked on this monumental project,” said Director Silsby. “The SARI line project is a great example of how agencies are working together effectively toward a common goal.”

The ribbon cutting ceremony also featured former Orange County Third District Supervisor Bill Campbell and speakers representing the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Orange County Sanitation District and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Over the years, erosion put four miles of the Santa Ana River Interceptor (SARI) line in jeopardy of failure during heavy rainstorms. Recent upgrades to Prado Dam and other river improvements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers significantly increased the potential rate at which floodwater can be discharged into the Santa Ana River. For these reasons, the relocation of the SARI Line outside the river was required.

It serves the sewage disposal needs of Yorba Linda, east Anaheim, Orange and portions of Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Fountain Valley. It also serves parts of Riverside and San Bernardino counties and manages salt levels in groundwater throughout the region.

The SARI project also set micro-tunneling records for the longest curve tunneling (2,187 ft) and longest compound curve (s-shaped) tunneling (1,567 ft) in North America. The SARI line is an element of the \$2.3 billion Santa Ana River Mainstem Project.

The SARI line relocation is another example of government agencies and others effectively working together toward a common goal – to accomplish great initiatives that serve and protect our communities.