

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 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA

Attendance/Attendees:

Jim Ferryman, SARFPA Executive Committee, Chairman; Director, Orange County Sanitation District
Art Perry, SARFPA Executive Committee; Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Patrick Harper, SARFPA Executive Committee; Councilman, City of Fountain Valley
Stephen Faessel, SARFPA Executive Committee; Councilman, City of Anaheim
Stacy Berry, SARFPA Executive Committee; Mayor, City of Cypress
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee; Engineering Manager, OC Public Works, Third District Alternate
Hong Alyce Van, Councilwoman, City of Stanton
Marwan Youssef, Director of Public Works, City of Westminster Alternate
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District
Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District
Sandy Scott Roberts, Orange County Water District
Ahmad Zahra, Director, Orange County Water District, Councilman, City of Fullerton
Austin Mejia, Supervisor Doug Chaffee's Office
Annie Yea, Congressman Harley Rouda's Office
Penny Lew, OC Public Works
Herbert Nakasone, Executive Director, SARFPA

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 4:04 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 September 19, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 19, 2019, Executive Committee Meeting were approved on a Motion by Stephen Faessel, Councilman, City of Anaheim and Second by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District.

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

Jim McConnell provided a verbal report by telephone and is summarized by

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

the Executive Director, Herb Nakasone as follows:

- a. Jim indicated Appropriation Bills to fund the government for 2019-20 has yet to be approved with a Continuing Resolution extended to December 20, 2019. Discussions on funding of the Border Wall continue to be discussed. However, Appropriation Bills are expected to be adopted by December 20, 2019 or soon thereafter.
- b. Despite the delay in the passage of Appropriation Bills to fund the government, Jim reports sufficient construction funding have been provided in previous Appropriations to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to continue construction on the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARP).
- c. In regard to the Westminster Watershed Study (Study), Jim indicated the USACE have indicated they anticipate the final Chief's Report on the Study to be completed in February or March of 2020. The completion of the Chief's Report on the Study is the key for inclusion of the project in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- d. Jim also indicate his discussion with Representative Lowenthals' staff indicate the Representative is on board with supporting the project for inclusion in the next WRDA.
- e. Representative Rouda also stated his support for inclusion of the Study in WRDA during SARFPA's meeting with the Representative in July of this year and indicated he would take the lead in submitting the Chief's Report to the Sub-Committee on Water Resources and Environmental of which he is a member.

5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Herb Nakasone reported on the following items:

- a. The scheduled July 1, 2019 meeting with Representative Rouda at his local office went very well, with the Congressman confirming his support for the Study and reporting he will take the lead in introducing the project for inclusion in the next WRDA. Annie Yea from Representative Rouda's office, who was present, confirmed the congressman support for the project.
- b. Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported on the Prado Dam field trip held on July 26, 2019 and attended by SARFPA members; James Tyler, Stephen Faessel, Ahmad Zahra, Hong Alyce Van, along with members of the County of Orange Sherriff's Emergency Operation staff. The tour included an up-close field trip of the dam's spillway and the ten-story structure which operates the six large gates to the dam outlet works.
- c. Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported a Letter of Support for the Study was sent to the USACE dated August 12, 2019, signed by SARFPA's Chairman, Jim Ferryman and Vice-Chairwoman, Barbara Delgleize. A copy of the letter is attached.
- d. Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported he is attempting to schedule a meeting with U.S. Representative Lowenstein to convey SARFPA's interest in the Study. Representative Lowenstein is also on the same Water Resources and Environmental Committee as Representative Rouda and his support of the Study would aid in getting the project into WRDA.

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

6. Santa Ana River Mainstem (SARP) Construction Status

James Tyler, Engineering Manager, OC Public Works (OCPW) reported on the SARP construction status as follows:

- a. James indicated County staff visited the USACE in Washington in October.
- b. James indicated in his PowerPoint presentation slide the final schedule for completion of the SARP as proposed by the USACE as follows:

1. FY 19: Ongoing Design and Construction
2. FY 20: Norco Bluffs (\$50M)
River Road Dike (\$20M)
Alcoa Dike-Phase 2 (\$10M)
3. FY 21: Santiago Creek (\$134M)
Spillway (\$70M)
4. FY 23: Construction Completion (All Features)
5. FY 24-29: 5-Year Monitoring & Fiscal Close Out

Schedule subject to real estate acquisition and environmental clearance.

- c. Reach 9 embankment protection projects including the BNSF Railway Bridge Protection Project continues as follows:
 1. Reach 9-Phase 4: A \$15M embankment protection project underway with completion by the end of 2019.
 2. Reach 9-Phase 5A: Scheduled for completion by the end of 2019 at a cost of \$23M.
 3. Reach-9Phase 5B: Currently held up due to the removal of the contractor due to non-performance. The USACE is currently working on bringing in a contractor in to complete the work.
 4. BNSF Railroad Bridge Protection Project: Construction on the \$51M project with a potential \$21M increase is scheduled for completion by December 2020.
- d. Prado Dam - The main emphasis is the acquisition of properties behind the dam. The County of Orange is currently negotiating with the USACE to delete the acquisition of 182 small flowage easement of less than 10 feet on the backs of property facing the dam due to the shallow flooding of approximately 1 foot.

Construction projects underway behind Prado Dam are as follows:

1. Alcoa Dike estimated at \$21M with completion in April 2020
2. Auxiliary Dikes at the entrance to Prado Dam and adjacent to SR91 are scheduled for completion in 2019.

Future construction projects behind Prado Dam:

1. River Road Dike to begin in FY20
2. Norco Bluffs Bank Stabilization (FY20)
3. Prado Dam Spillway (FY21).

6a. Status of the Westminster Watershed Feasibility Study (Study):

Penny Lew with OCPW reported on the Study as follows:

- a. The USACE is scheduled to complete the Study or Chief's Report by March 2020. The Study will have a National Economic Development (NED) Plan

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

with an estimate of \$830 million and a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) estimated at \$1.48 billion. The Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) will need to cover the cost difference between the NED and LPP plan.

- b. The LPP is being proposed by the County of Orange since it will be able to remove the current floodplain while the NED will not. There are currently 5,471 homes and businesses within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain), who pay a total of over \$10 million in flood premiums per year.
- c. The County of Orange is proceeding with constructing a segment of flood control channel improvements during the coming year consistent with the LPP in the hope that the project will be authorized by Congress and the expenditures by the County will be credited towards the share of the overall project cost

7. Public and Representative Comments

- a. Kelly Rowe from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) commented on the FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program which allows a reduction in flood insurance premiums to cities that adopt programs or policies proposed under the CRS Program. Mr. Rowe indicated the cities affected by the current floodplain in the Westminster Watershed could have the insurance premiums of those residents in the existing floodplain reduced if the cities adopted several of the recommended CRS activities. Chairman Jim Ferryman suggested he and Kelly Rowe could get together to discuss the CRS Program in more detail.
- b. Penny Lew explained that her section at OCPW is responsible for the County's CRS Program, which coordinates and provides seminars with cities who are interested in the CRS Program.
- c. Councilman Patrick Harper from the City of Fountain Valley brought up the question of responding to public complaints or comments on the Santa Ana River that he received in an email. Executive Director Herb Nakasone stated that complaints or comments received by SARFPA members on the Santa Ana River or the Study is best directed to the OCPW staff through the Executive Director.

10. Adjournment

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

Attachments:

1. Letter of Support