

# *Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency*

## **Executive Director**

Herbert I. Nakasone

## **SARFPA EXECUTIVE 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 25, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

### **Attendance/Attendees:**

Patrick Harper, SARFPA Chairman, Mayor, City of Fountain Valley  
Bruce Whitaker, SARFPA Vice-Chairman, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton  
Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach  
James Tyler, SARFPA Executive Committee, OC Public Works, Alt. to Supervisor Don Wagner  
Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District  
Frances Marquez, Council Member, City of Cypress  
Mike Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District  
Keith Linker, City Engineer, City of Anaheim  
Jonathan Hernandez, Director, OC Sanitation District  
Janice Lim, Council Member, City of Yorba Linda  
Andrew Pham, City Engineer, City of Irvine  
Robert Thompson, General Manager, OC Sanitation District  
Kelly Rowe, Director, Orange County Water District  
Herb Nakasone, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

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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 Call to Order at the Orange County Water District Hearing Room by Chairman Patrick Harper at 4:04 pm

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Harper

### **3. Approve Minutes of November 17, 2022 Full Agency Meeting**

Approve Minutes of March 23, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting - Chairman Patrick Harper.

Minutes of March 23, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting were unanimously approved based on Motion by Bruce Whitaker, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton and Second by James Tyler, Flood Programs, County of Orange and Alternate to Supervisor Donald Wagner.

### **4. Review and recommend approval of SARFPA 2023-24 Budget – Executive Director**

Executive Director Herb Nakasone introduced the SARFPA 2023-24 Budget which was included in the May 25, 2023 Meeting Notice sent to all SARFPA members and distributed to all members and guest present at this meeting.

Herb went over the proposed Budget and explained the proposed total budget of \$27,850.00 is exactly the same as the current Budget as no additional expenses are anticipate in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The Executive Director's compensation is anticipated to be the major expense for FY 2023-24. The dues to SARFPA Members for FY 2023-24

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are proposed to remain the same at \$1,300.00 per member allowing its revenue to cover all of SARFPA expenses in FY 2023-24.

Executive Director Herb Nakasone explained the role of the Executive Committee is to recommend the proposed SARFPA Budget to its members at the June 22, 2023 Agency meeting. On a Motion by Bruce Whitaker, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Fullerton and Second by James Tyler, Engineering Manager OC Public Works, the Executive Committee recommended the FY 2023-24 SARFPA Budget as submitted by the Executive Director, be recommended for approval the SARFPA members at the June 22, 2023 Agency Meeting.

## **5. Executive Committee Member nominations for FY 23-24 – Executive Director**

Per the SARFPA By Law, the election of the Executive Committee is administered by the Executive Director with the current Executive Committee as the Nominating Committee. Executive Director reported the current Executive Committee members have agreed to continue serving on the FY 2023-24 Executive Committee and therefore placed on the list of nominees. In addition, SARFPA members Pat Burns, Council Member, City of Huntington Beach, Janice Lim, Council member, City of Yorba Linda and Francis Marquez, Council member City of Cypress have agreed to be nominees for the FY 2023-24 Executive Committee and will be recommended to serve on the FY 2023-24 Executive Committee at the June 22, Agency meeting.

## **6. Discussion on the use of Zoom or similar device for holding SARFPA meetings – Executive Director**

After a brief discussion on the Brown Act requirements on a SARFPA member to participate remotely via Zoom or similar device at a SARFPA meeting versus having all SARFPA meetings be in-person meetings, the Executive Committee determined future SARFPA meetings will be In-person meetings on Motion by Art Perry, Director, Costa Mesa Sanitary District and Second by Bruce Whitaker.

## **7. Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster Project Status**

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

James reported Community Meetings on the Santiago Creek Project were held at the County of Orange Conference Center at 601 N. Ross Street. The Santiago Creek Project (Project) is currently being designed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and is tasked to receive input from the Community on the design features of the Project. The project's purpose is to prevent flooding of the adjacent neighborhood and further erosion of the deficient earthen waterway which will remove the existing 100 year FEMA floodplain. The Project is part of the Santa River Mainstem Project which includes improvements to Prado Dam and the Santa Ana River in Orange County. The Project is proposed by the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) and located in the cities of Orange and Santa Ana, both of whom are affected by the Creek Project. Several members of the Community who live adjacent the creek in the City of Santa Ana voiced strong opposition to the project at the Community Meetings. The objections included the removal of trees and their desire to have a natural setting in the neighborhood despite the threat of flooding and erosion from flood flows in the

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creek. The Project is estimated to cost \$141 million and the scheduled for construction is subject to Real Estate acquisition in the City of Santa Ana Floral Park residential neighborhood where several property owners where acquisition is need opposes the Project.

The Prado Dam spillway improvement project is the major feature remaining at Prado Dam. James reports the USACE is currently having discussion with several potential contractors on approaches for constructing improvement to the proposed unique Prado Dam Spillway design. The USACE has indicated property acquisition behind the Dam will need to be acquired by the County and utilities such as Edison power lines behind the Dam will need to be relocated before construction can commence. Nine properties behind Prado Dam remains to be acquired by the County The relocation of Edison Company power lines in the Prado Dam basin is currently being negotiated.

The following three projects behind Prado Dam are currently under construction and estimated to be completed in late 2023 or early 2024:

- Norco Bluffs (\$29.7M)
- River Road Dike (\$18.1M)
- Alcoa Dike-(\$30.8M)

The following bank protection projects in the Santa Ana River below Prado Dam and upstream of Weir Canyon bridge have been completed except for the Reach 9 5B project on the Northerly reach of the Santa Ana River in the City of Yorba Linda which is estimated to be completed in early 2024.

- Reach 9 Phase 5A (\$23 million Grouted Stone and Sheet Pile)
- Reach 9 Phase 5B (\$22.5 million Grouted Stone)

## **Westminster Watershed Project:**

James reported the Federal phase of the Westminster Project is awaiting congressional appropriations for funding the project. The County lobbyist is working with Orange County congressional representatives to seek appropriation.

While awaiting federal funding, James reports the Orange County Flood Control District is proceeding on the construction of incremental flood control channel improvements on the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel. James identified the floodplain from the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel on his Power Point exhibit. The goal of the Westminster project is to remove the 100 year FEMA floodplain and thereby removing the mandatory flood insurance requirement on homes and businesses within the FEMA floodplain.

Chairman Patrick Harper requested James to share with the new members a previous exhibit which depicted the number of flood insurance policies in each of cities affected by the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel floodplain.

## **8. Report from Executive Director- Herb Nakasone**

### **a. Discussion on date for Field Trip to Prado Dam:**

Based on the available of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel and discussion among SARFPA members present, the second week of July 2023 was selected as

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the desired week for the field trip. The exact day on the second week of July and the time of the field trip will be announced at the June Agency meeting along with transportation details.

- b. Meet and Greet Meeting with Second District Supervisor Sarmiento:  
Executive Director Herb Nakasone reported he and SARFPA Chairman Patrick Harper along with OC Public Works Infrastructure Manager Nardy Khan met with Supervisor Sarmiento at his office on May 10, 2023. Executive Director Herb Nakasone and SARFPA Chairman Patrick Harper introduced themselves to the Supervisor and welcomed the Supervisor to SARFPA as the County of Orange Representative and explain the function and purpose of SARFPA. The Supervisor shared his recent Community Meeting with City of Santa Ana residents regarding the Santiago Creek feature of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. The Supervisor indicated he is looking forward to scheduling the June Agency Meeting on his calendar.

## **9. Public and Representative Comments:**

SARFPA representative Bruce Whitaker, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton, reported he recently received a call from a constituent regarding a significant increase in his Flood Insurance Premium and ask if other SARFPA member cities had experienced similar reports. Chairman Harper requested the Executive Director to discuss the issue with County staff and report back on his findings regarding large increases of flood insurance premiums.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chairman Patrick Harper adjourned the Meeting at 5:10 pm.