

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Penny K. Lew

SARFPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes for May 28, 2026

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

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Location

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Website

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Attendance/Attendees:

Pat Burns, SARFPA Chairman, Director, Orange County Sanitation District, City of Huntington Beach
Cathy Green, SARFPA Vice Chairman, Director, Orange County Water District
Art Perry, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District
Van Tran, Orange County Water District
Kathleen Treseder, City of Irvine
Mike Eskander, City of Anaheim
Jim Cunneen, City of Fountain Valley
Chris Chan, Orange County Public Works
Penny Lew, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

1. Call to Order – Chairman Pat Burns

Chairman Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District, called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance –Chairman Pat Burns

Chris Olsen led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Minutes of January 22, 2026 – Chairman Pat Burns

The Minutes were unanimously approved on Motion by Pat Burns, and Second by Cathy Green.

4. Review and Recommend Approval of FY '26 - '27 SARFPA Budget to SARFPA Members- Executive Director Penny Lew

A brief intro of the budget was provided by Penny Lew who noted that line item for Washington DC Advocate/Other has no budgeted amount; however, suggested that item remain in case we need to bring in a legislative consultant and thus would need to move funds around. No questions or discussion followed. The approval for recommendation of the '26-'27 Budget to SARFPA members was unanimously approved on motion by Cathy Green and second by Art Perry.

5. Santa Ana River Mainstem Project Status – Chris Chan (for James Tyler)

- a. Chris Chan provided background and updates for the Santa Ana River (SAR) Mainstem Project. The cooperative project between US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), San Bernardino Flood Control, Riverside County Flood Control and Orange County Flood Control (OCFCD) districts protecting approximately 3M people has an estimated total cost of \$3.04B.
- b. Currently we are in the FY 21-26 phase with the active construction projects including raising the protective ring dikes around Prado Basin. Chris presented the SAR Mainstem

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schedule and pointed out that turnover of Norco Bluffs to County was completed in April 2026 for O&M. Turnover of River Road Dike was completed in July 2025, and the Alcoa Dike-Phase 2 is set for turnover in Spring '26. Now, preparing to start the Prado Dam Spillway raising that's intended to increase reservoir capacity. Construction of all SAR Mainstem features is expected in FY '33.

- c. For Santiago Creek, Chris briefed that the Corps continues with its request for additional funding for the design of the creek and basin to move forward. Design would minimize impacts to trees, a big point of contention with the nearby residents. BBA funding will not be available for construction of this project, but the Corps needs to request additional funding through appropriations next year.
- d. Chris summarized background of the SAR Reach 5 Levee Height Correction Project and the objective to correct the deficient levee height between SR-22 and I-5 Fwy towards Chapman Ave. That was found during the levee re-certification process. He indicated they are wrapping up construction plans for the floodwall and presented the updated schedule for the project where design of the floodwall is expected in Summer '26 and construction from Fall '26 thru Summer '27. The estimated construction cost is \$8.4M.
- e. For the Prado Dam Basin Property acquisitions, 112 acquisitions have been completed and included in the certification package Corps is still reviewing.
- f. Utility relocations/retrofits were completed owned by several cities and agencies with estimated cost of \$2.7M. The Corps is reviewing the certification package (since July '25). Approval is needed prior to the spillway raise construction. There is ongoing coordination with So. California Edison for their utilities within Prado Basin. The cost should be \$0 due to Orange County's prior rights.
- g. Chris pointed out the location of the Alcoa dikes on the exhibit slide as the remaining piece needed for completion of Prado Dam Basin construction. The Alcoa Dike turnover for O&M is still expected in Spring '26 including the floodgate, a unique component within the area. The Norco Bluffs Stabilization, which is technically a dike, was awarded in July '21 and turnover for O&M was completed in April '26.

6. Westminster East Garden Grove (WEGG) Project Status - Chris Chen (for James Tyler)

- a. Chris Chan began providing background on the Westminster East Garden Grove Project (WEGG) and watershed per the PowerPoint slides. From the feasibility study, the general map provided the congressional districts, flood channels that were studied, and the FEMA 100-year flood hazard area. Flood insurance data from May '25 was shown with the breakdown of policies and premiums within the various affected cities.

The Corps' workplan included funds to initiate the PED phase where OCPW followed with submitting a Letter of Intent with the Corps to cost share Pre-construction, Engineering and Design phases (PED) and requested funding for the C05 Tidegates project (Reach 1). The Corps executed the Design Agreement for Reach 1 in March '26 and was followed up with a kick-off meeting. The Corps has requested \$350K from the County in local cost share to initiate the design. County is working on a WRDA proposal for cost share.

- b. The intent is to complete improvements up to I-405 Fwy then apply for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to remove properties from the floodplain. Chris provided further updates of current and future activities. Updates to the schedule for construction by OCPW for the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel (OCFCD Facility C05) Included the following channel reaches: Downstream Warner Ave. Bridge at Huntington Harbor

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FY 26-27 Pending Corps H&H Modeling updates; Tidegates to upstream Graham FY 27-28 Corps anticipates federal construction fund request in FY 33; and confluence with Oceanview Channel to Woodruff FY 28-29, 29-30 Corps anticipates federal construction fund request in FY 33.

7. Executive Director's Report – Penny Lew

Penny Lew reported the following:

- a. Audit - Penny Lew reported that the Audit report for FY'24-25 was released by OC Public Works auditors and its consultant. The purpose of the (routine) audit was to test internal control and compliance and to present the results of the testing. Following Government Auditing Standards (GAS), any material weaknesses found were included in the report and summarized as follows:

Criteria - Expenses are to be reported in the period they are incurred and revenues are reported in the period they are earned.

Condition - Auditors were provided with a trial balance that had not been appropriately reconciled. An adjustment was necessary to accrue a receivable amount related to an outstanding member contribution. This contribution is related to the \$1,300 that was not paid by one of the members that Fiscal year.

Cause - The Agency's (OCPW) year-end closing process did not include sufficient procedures to ensure that account balances were fully reviewed and reconciled prior to audit. While the Agency prepares an annual budget, it does not have a formal process to monitor budget-to-actual results throughout the year, which reduces management's ability to identify and correct errors in revenues and expenditures on a timely basis.

Effect - Without effective year-end reconciliation procedures and ongoing budget monitoring, errors in financial reporting may not be identified or corrected in a timely manner. This increases the risk that the financial statements could contain misstatements, whether due to error or fraud.

Recommendation - Auditors recommended the Agency review and strengthen its closing process to ensure balances are properly reconciled. This process should include procedures to ensure that the trial balance agrees to the financial statements and that all required accruals and reversals are recorded.

Views of Responsible Officials - Management will revise year-end closing procedures to ensure Agency's trial balance is properly reconciled prior to being provided to the auditor. Management will also perform budget-to-actual comparisons throughout the year and will revise year-end closing procedures to include a final comparison.

- b. Executive Committee Member Nominations '26-27 - The Executive Committee members in attendance, Art Perry, Jim Cunneen, Pat Burns as Chairman and Cathy Green as Vice Chairman, all would like to stay on in their current positions for FY 26-27.

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- c. Prado Tour - OCPW staff corresponded with Corps staff, Jon Sweeten, to coordinate and let him know that the elevator would not be needed for the SARFPA tour that we would like to schedule for anytime between June through October.
- 8. Public and Representative Comments: No public comments were received
- 9. Adjournment: Chairman Pat Burns adjourned the Meeting at 4:43 pm.

Prepared by Penny Lew, Executive Director, Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

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