

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Penny K. Lew

SARFPA FULL AGENCY MEETING

Minutes for June 25, 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

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
Denis Bilodeau, City of Orange
Eric Weigand, City of Newport Beach
Fred Jung, City of Fullerton
James Tyler, Orange County Public Works, for Supervisor Foley
Jeremy Yamaguchi, City of Placentia
Jim Cunneen, City of Fountain Valley
Keith Linker, City of Anaheim
Ryan Bouley, Orange County Water District
Penny Lew, Executive Director, SARFPA

1. Call to Order – Chairman Pat Burns

Chairman Pat Burns, Director, Orange County Sanitation District, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance –Chairman Pat Burns

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Pat Burns noted that based on the attendance at this meeting, we did not have a quorum. The Minutes were unanimously approved on Motion by Pat Burns, and Second by Art Perry

4. Approval of FY '26 -'27 SARFPA Budget - Penny Lew

There were no questions raised or discussions as members acknowledged the executive committee's recommendation of the budget at the May meeting. A motion to approve the budget was made by Fred Jung with a second by Pat Burns and unanimous approval by all members in attendance. However, the total vote count was ten (10) and a total of 14 is needed to meet the quorum requirement. Penny will have to take proxy vote forms to other members for their approval of the budget.

5. Selection of FY 26-27 Executive Committee Members - Penny Lew

Penny began by summarizing what was decided at the May '26 Executive Committee (EC) Meeting. Pat Burns will remain as Chairman and Cathy Green as Vice Chairman for another year. Penny contacted the two EC members who

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4048
Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048

Email Address:

Penny.Lew2@pw.oc.gov
pennyroshann@gmail.com

Phone

(714) 647-3938
(949) 351-6586

Location

601 N. Ross Street
Santa Ana CA 92701

Website

www.ocflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

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weren't available to attend the May meeting, to confirm their position on the EC. Of those EC members, Fred Jung agreed to stay on if no one else expressed interest and the other member, Mark Nguyen, did not respond. Hearing that there were no additional nominations, the nomination was closed. Fred Jung made a motion to keep the EC as-is with a second by Pat Burns. The vote was unanimous to go forward with the current EC members as the SARFPA Executive Committee Members for FY 26-27 as follows:

- 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
- Eric Weigand, City of Newport Beach
- Fred Jung, City of Fullerton
- James Tyler, Orange County Public Works, for Supervisor Foley
- Jim Cunneen, City of Fountain Valley
- Mark Nguyen, City of Westminster

6. Santa Ana River Mainstem Project & Westminster Project Status – James Tyler

James provided an overview of the project and background info supplemented with a PowerPoint presentation. He included updates for the various project elements:

- a. Santiago Creek has been paused due to lack of funding. Although BBA (Bipartisan Budget Act) funding is not currently available, there may be funding opportunities in the future. Regarding the overall schedule, the only update is the Alcoa Dike turnover to O&M, now expected this summer.
- b. Santa Ana River Reach 5 Project to correct levee height deficiency will essentially be construction of a flood wall located from the SR-22 to I-5 Fwy towards Chapman Ave. That was found during the levee re-certification process. The schedule remains as last provided with completion expected in Summer 2027.
- c. Prado Dam- Four properties are still needed for the Prado Dam right-of-way, and the Corps continues their review for certification. Regardless, the right-of-way is still needed for construction of the spillway. Utilities relocations were completed and certified last December.
- d. Prado Dam Spillway Project- The PowerPoint slides had been revamped. The senior executive board meets with the Corps this week, including Brigadier General Walters and the contractor, who is also working on the Whittier Narrows project for the Corps [in LA]. The contractor reported on the construction aspect of the spillway project and uses the IDAC process that brings in the contractor early on. Only a few projects in the nation utilize the process that has been successful and should save money on the backend. James continues that the labyrinth weir spillway, one of first in the nation, allows for a narrower spillway while still conveying the same amount of flow as the original spillway. The project will raise the spillway 20 ft; side walls and chute will be replaced; and the auxiliary dike into the spillway and another extension. Significant construction is expected to start in Spring '27. Some contract awards

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occurred in March '26 for approximately \$556M with the Notice to Proceed expected in October 2026. Test pours were completed, steel rebars checked and a lot was learned from the test sections. James showed photos of the concrete slab section of the labyrinth weir test section with a height of 15 feet, having #8 steel rebars (1 inch thick) and 6-inches of concrete cover (normally 3-inches) over steel. The test pours cost \$1M that was added to the contract. Some destructive testing will be done.

- e. The original dam was built in the late 1930's and the intent to raise the spillway as part of this project. It was contemplated in the 1980's, but when exploration was done and voids were found, the Corps realized the existing concrete slabs were not reliable. The historical mural will be kept during construction for as long as possible and at some point, it will have to be demolished, but may be reenvisioned with the new spillway.

Westminster East Garden Grove (WEGG) Project Status - James Tyler

- a. James began by providing background on the project and with the PowerPoint slides, noting the watersheds, the flood channel reaches of the project as defined by the Corps, and the areas that would benefit from the project. Funding for the project has not changed.
- b. A meeting with the Corps' Project Development Team was held on 6/18/26 to discuss the project. None of the funding has really changed. The significance of the meeting with the Corps was that it served as a kick-off-meeting where the first part of project was discussed and the County provided \$350K for Reach 1 as the "first design" part of the project, located at the end of the East Garden Grove Wintersburg Channel (C05). The Corps is contributing \$650K, thus totaling \$1M for the first phase of design. Once the design is done and funding is obtained for the first portion of construction, then County enters into the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the Corps and solidifies County's relationship with the Corps and the rest of the project can move forward. The Corps' Los Angeles District will be completing the design and construction for the project. Cost sharing is being worked out, and the Corps is trying to work with Congress and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2026 to make the cost share a bit more favorable for OC.
- c. There was an update to the schedule for construction of the C05 project for the reach from Tidegates to Graham which is scheduled to begin in FY 29-30.

7. Executive Director's Report – Penny Lew

Penny reported the following:

- a. Prado Dam Field Trip (Tour) Planning- Penny provided possible dates to OCPW staff for coordination with the Corps, trying to avoid dates of city council meetings: July 23, 24; August 13, 21; Sept 10, 18. The tour is open to all SARFPA members. An email invite will be sent out to all members.
- b. Need for July meeting- for the past few years there has not been a need for the July meeting, although it is on the calendar. There was a motion by Pat Burns and second by Fred Jung to cancel the July meeting and the vote was unanimous to cancel the July

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meeting. A member asked if there has been any thought to restructure the [calendar] for when Executive Committee is to meet, such as quarterly instead of 5 times per year and still have 2 full agency meetings. Asked if two full Agency meetings were really needed and Penny responded that two meetings is ideal for disseminating needed information to members as a lot can happen within one year. It was understood that the by-laws need to be reviewed as there could be some flexibility, especially as the projects wind down or if there is not much progress on the projects. Fred Jung had concerns since this current meeting was a full agency meeting, yet attendance did not meet the quorum requirement, being 4 votes shy. Most in attendance were Executive Committee members. Eric Weigand and Pat Burns requested the list of members that accepted the invitation for this meeting. For further discussion, Penny will include this topic on the agenda for the next meeting in September. We will look at the overall organization, consider member agency budget vote in May instead of June, and have summer months off. Pat Burns noted the importance of the information provided at the meetings and the significance of flood insurance. The possibility of remote meetings can be revisited. Will need to check the list of members and work to update.

8. Public and Representative Comments: No public comments were received

9. Adjournment: Chairman Pat Burns adjourned the Meeting at 4:47 pm.

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