

Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Westminster East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Study Authorization

Submission Date: 08/27/2019

Proposal ID Number: 38cc9eda-508c-4d8e-8e08-0f7988f8103c

Purpose of Proposal: The project to construct improvements to channel systems within the Westminster East Garden Grove watershed will reduce flood damages, flood risk and threat to human life and safety due to insufficient channel capacity. Flood damages along East Garden Grove-Wintersburg (C05), Ocean View (C06), Westminster (C04), and Bolsa Chica (C02) Channels affect residences and businesses in 6 Orange County cities within a 74 square mile watershed, which has the largest remaining FEMA floodplain within the county. Within this urban watershed, channels overtop during major storms, causing significant damage. The project would reduce life-safety risk from overbank flooding as well as flood damages to structures and infrastructure, reduce risk of downstream flood damages to environmental reserves downstream of channels, and preserve and create compatible recreation. The Westminster Watershed Project would be the “final piece” of the regional Santa Ana River Project, constructed in partnership with the Corps of Engineers. Construction of the Locally Preferred Plan proposed in the study would provide flood control improvements to remove the FEMA 100-year floodplain from the watershed and thus the requirement for residents and businesses to have flood insurance. Over 40,000 structures within the Westminster 0.2 percent annual chance of exceedance (aka “500-year”) floodplain have a combined structure and content value exceeding \$10 billion. It is estimated that a 1 percent ACE (“100-Year”) flood event could generate damages approaching \$1 billion. Flood insurance premiums paid by home and business owners within the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area are in excess of \$13M annually. Because of the importance of the project and potential study completion timing issues with respect to WRDA 2020, it is proposed that authorization language include a provision that the project is authorized pending an approved Chief’s Report.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Westminster East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Study Authorization

by Agency: Orange County Public Works on behalf of Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) and County of Orange

Locations: CA

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/27/2019

Confirmation Number: 38cc9eda-508c-4dbe-8e08-0f7988f8103c

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Support Statement OCPW 08-14-19.pdf	08/27/2019
Map-Westminster Project 2019.jpg	08/27/2019
Support Letter SARFPA.pdf	08/27/2019
Support Letter OCWD 8.12.19.pdf	08/27/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Orange County Flood Control District _County of Orange (Primary)	Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD)_County of Orange has been a dedicated partner in the Westminster Feasibility Study and is committed to the implementation of the project. Orange County has the capability to perform all functions required of the local sponsor of this large Civil Works project, including financial. In addition, there is strong support for this project from multiple stakeholders in the region, see below.
Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency & Orange County Water District	Strong local support from the cities of Westminster, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove and Santa Ana throughout the study phase continues as we seek authorization for a Project. Other cities within the watershed provide support through the Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency, an organization consisting of 22 member agencies (cities and special districts).

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Feasibility Study Authority : The proposal is to ensure that authorization of the Westminster East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Project is included in WRDA 2020, including a provision that the project is authorized pending an approved Chiefs Report

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The project to construct improvements to channel systems within the Westminster-East Garden Grove watershed will reduce flood damages, flood risk and threat to human life and safety due to insufficient channel capacity. Flood damages along East Garden Grove-Wintersburg (C05), Ocean View(C06), Westminster(C04), and Bolsa Chica (C02) Channels affect residences and businesses in 6 Orange County cities within a 74 square mile watershed, which has the largest remaining FEMA floodplain within the county . Within this urban watershed, channels overtop during major storms, causing significant damage. The project would reduce life-safety risk from overbank flooding as well as flood damages to structures and infrastructure, reduce risk of downstream flood damages to environmental reserves downstream of channels, and preserve and create compatible recreation. The Westminster Watershed Project would be the “final piece” of the regional Santa Ana River Project, constructed in partnership with the Corps of Engineers. Construction of the Locally Preferred Plan proposed in the study would provide flood control improvements to remove the FEMA 100-year floodplain from the watershed and thus the requirement for residents and businesses to have flood insurance. Over 40,000 structures within the Westminster 0.2 percent annual chance of exceedance (aka “500-year”) floodplain have a combined structure and content value exceeding \$10 billion. It is estimated that a 1 percent ACE (“100-Year”) flood event could generate damages approaching \$1 billion. Flood insurance premiums paid by home and business owners within the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area are in excess of \$13M annually. Because of the importance of the project and potential study completion timing issues with respect to WRDA 2020, it is proposed that authorization language include a provision that the project is authorized pending an approved Chief’s Report.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$6,560,000	\$4,496,800	\$11,056,800
Construction	\$348,420,150	\$1,127,511,000	\$1,475,931,150

Explanation (if necessary)

The overall cost share for a flood risk management project is 65% Federal, 35% Nonfederal. The project proposed for authorization includes an LPP. The Federal cost share for the LPP is limited to the cost share calculated for 65% of the NED plan.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

Consistent with protecting the nation's environment, the study proposes measures to reduce flood risk in Orange County associated with the existing flood control channels within the Westminster-East Garden Grove Watershed. The project would meet new standards to greatly reduce flood risks and prevent damages exceeding \$10 billion to over 40,000 structures at risk within the FEMA 500-yr floodplain. It is estimated that a 1% ACE ("100-Year") flood event could generate damages approaching \$1 billion. The project would reduce flood impacts to environmental reserves at Bolsa Chica and will avoid and/or minimize environmental impacts to soft-bottom channels; Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve; Huntington Harbor; Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge; Anaheim Bay and Pacific Ocean. By including measures for reduction of aesthetic, scenic, and ingress/egress disturbances, impacts will be minimized. Unavoidable impacts will be mitigated in coordination with local environmental resource agencies. Flood control improvements would lead to improvements to regional transportation: Interstate 405 connects Orange County to Los Angeles (north) and San Diego (south) as I-405 feeds into I-10 and State Route 60, major highways into San Bernardino and Riverside counties (east). Heavy traffic throughout the study area is common during commuting hours and weekends. Flows from the C04, C05 and C06 channels inundate the I-405 during frequent storm events causing major delays to commercial, commuter and emergency vehicle traffic within the watershed. The Project would reduce the occurrence of inundation along I-405 during larger storm events therefore minimizing delays caused by overtopping of channels in the area of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. Monetary benefits are estimated to be: Current NED First Cost: \$536,031,000 Annual NED Benefits: \$112,949,000 NED BCR: 4.1 @ 2.875% Current LPP First Cost: \$1,475,931,000 Annual LPP Benefits: \$86,102,000 NED BCR: 2.2 @ 2.875%

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

There is significant local support from the cities of Westminster, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove and Santa Ana. Other cities within the watershed provide support through the Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency, an organization consisting of 22 member agencies (cities and special districts).

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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Support Statement OCPW 08-14-19.pdf



August 14, 2019

Colonel Aaron Barta
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Statement of Support for Inclusion of the East Garden Grove Westminster Project in the 2020 Army Corps Report

Dear Colonel Barta:

This letter represents our Statement of Support for the Westminster and East Garden Grove (WEGG) Project to be included in the United States Army Corps of Engineers' 2020 Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development projects.

In 2003, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the County of Orange/Orange County Flood Control District (County) entered into a 50/50 cost share agreement to develop feasible alternatives through a flood risk management study aimed at reducing risks to life, safety and property due to deficiencies in the East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Watershed. The feasibility study is in its final phase and has achieved the Tentatively Selected Plan and Agency Decision Milestones. We are now urging USACE to seek Congressional approval to authorize the WEGG project, upon completion of a favorable Chief's Report.

This vital project will lead to increased flood protection for 6 cities directly and impact 11 cities overall, including portions of Huntington Beach, Westminster, Santa Ana, Fountain Valley and Garden Grove. The flood control improvements, currently estimated at \$1.3 billion, will prevent approximately \$4 billion in damages from a 100-year flood event, and protect over 1 million residents, business owners and U.S. military operations currently at risk. The proposed improvements will also alleviate home and business owners in the affected communities from paying flood insurance premiums totaling over \$13 million annually.

Please consider including the WEGG project in the subject annual report to Congress. Should you have further questions, feel free to contact me at (714) 667-9700 or Shane.Silsby@ocpw.ocgov.com.

Sincerely,

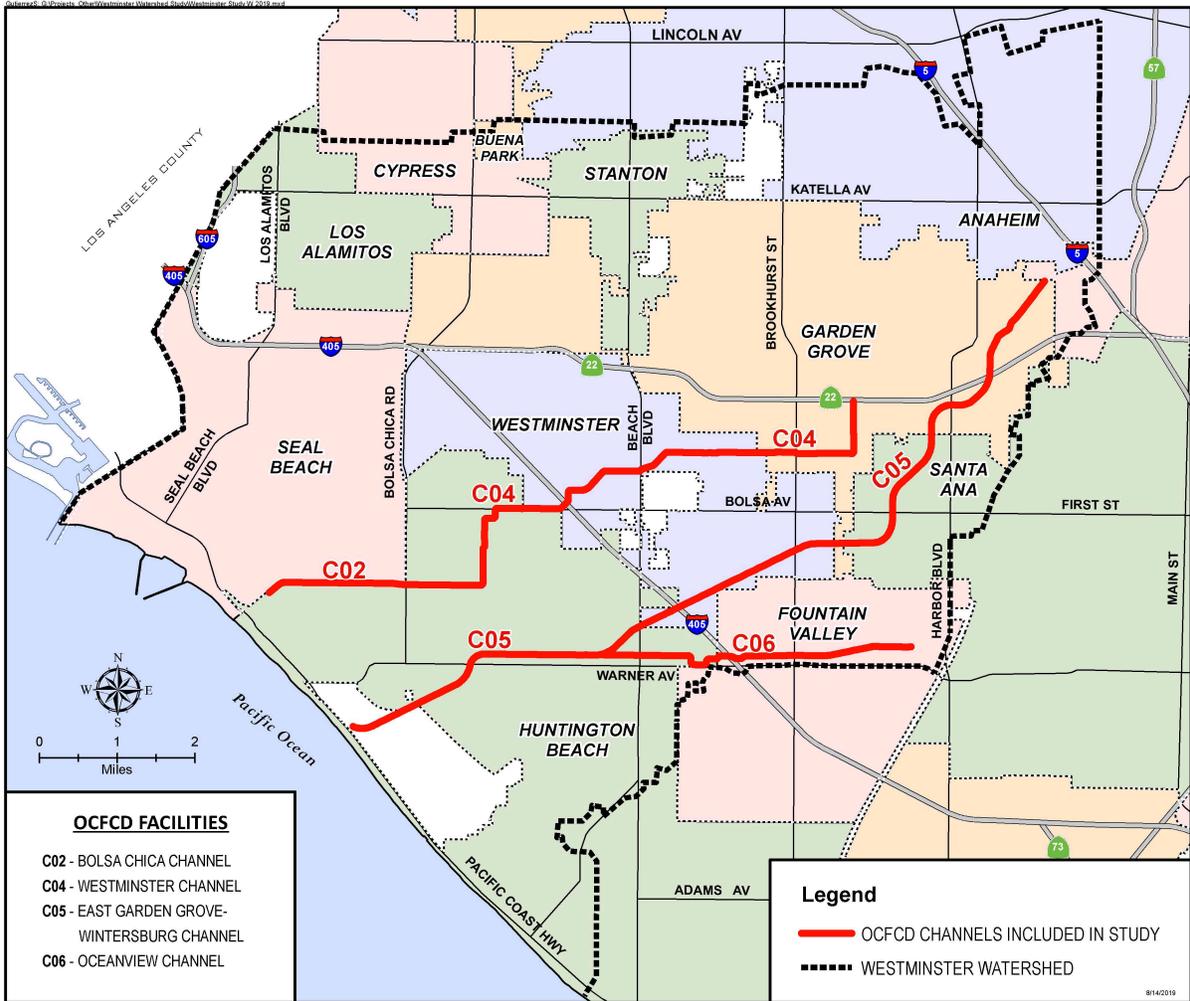


Shane L. Silsby
Director of OC Public Works

Map Document

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Map-Westminster Project 2019.jpg



Other Non-Federal Sponsors Letter(s) of Support

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Support Letter SARFPA.pdf

Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency

Executive Director

Herbert I. Nakasone

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

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.ocfflood.com/sarp/sarfpa

August 12, 2019

Colonel Aaron Barta
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Statement of Support for Inclusion of the East Garden Grove Westminster Project in the 2020 Army Corps Report

Dear Colonel Barta:

The Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency (SARFPA) is in support of the County of Orange/Orange County Flood Control District's efforts to seek congressional project authorization for the Westminster East Garden Grove Project (PROJECT). Our members include the cities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Anaheim, all of whom are located within the PROJECT'S existing floodplain. We eagerly await its authorization and eventual construction, which will lead to increased flood protection for our members' cities.

The PROJECT, estimated at \$1.3 billion, will prevent approximately \$4 billion in damages from a 100-year flood event and protect over 1 million residents, business owners, including sewer, ground water and transportation infrastructure currently at risk. The PROJECT will also alleviate home and business owners in our affected communities from paying flood insurance premiums totaling over \$13 million annually.

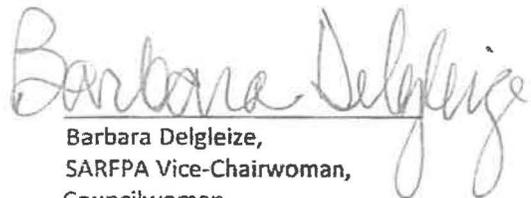
We understand the joint study between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the County of Orange, which is proposing the comprehensive flood protection PROJECT is well underway and has reached the Tentatively Selected Plan and Agency Decision Milestones. We also understand a Chief's Report for the PROJECT is set to be complete in early 2020. We urge your agency to select this project for inclusion in the "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2020 Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development" as it seeks the necessary Congressional authority.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigns or our Executive Director, Herb Nakasone at herb.nakasone@ocpw.ocgov.com or by phone at 714-647-3938.

Sincerely,



James Ferryman,
SARFPA Chairman,
Director,
Orange County Sanitation District



Barbara Delgleize,
SARFPA Vice-Chairwoman,
Councilwoman,
City of Huntington Beach

Additional Proposal Information

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Support Letter OCWD 8.12.19.pdf

DIRECTORS

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STEPHEN R. SHELDON
TRI TA
ROGER C. YOH, P.E.
AHMAD ZAHRA



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

OFFICERS

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First Vice President
CATHY GREEN
Second Vice President
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MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E., D.WRE

August 12, 2019

Colonel Aaron Barta
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: *Statement of Support for Inclusion of the East Garden Grove Westminster Project in the 2020 Army Corps Report*

Dear Colonel Barta:

On behalf of the Orange County Water District, I am writing in support of the County of Orange/Orange County Flood Control District's efforts to seek congressional project authorization for the Westminster East Garden Grove (WEGG) Project. As a special district located within the County's largest existing floodplain, we eagerly await the project's completion, which will lead to increased flood protection for 6 cities and impact 11 cities overall.

The flood control improvements, estimated at \$1.3 billion, will prevent approximately \$4 billion in damages from a 100-year flood event and protect over 1 million residents, business owners and U.S. military operations currently at risk. The proposed improvements will also alleviate home and business owners in our affected communities from paying flood insurance premiums totaling over \$13 million annually.

A joint study between the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the County of Orange to develop feasible alternatives for comprehensive flood protection, ecosystem restoration and water quality improvements is well underway and has achieved the Tentatively Selected Plan and Agency Decision Milestones. A Chief's Report for the WEGG Project is set to be complete in early 2020.

It is our hope that your agency selects this project to be included in the "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2020 Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development" as it seeks the necessary Congressional authority.

Colonel Aaron Barta
August 12, 2019
Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions, please contact John Kennedy at jkennedy@ocwd.com or by phone at (714) 378-3304.

Sincerely,



Vicente Sarmiento, ESQ.
President of the Orange County Water District