

MINUTES

OF THE

SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
SACRAMENTO CITY FINANCING AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Sacramento City Council was called to order by Mayor Serna at 7:08 p.m. on the above date in the City Council Chamber located at 915 I Street.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Cohn, Fargo, Hammond, Kerth, Pannell, Steinberg, Waters, Yee and Mayor Serna

Absent: None

Note: Councilman Yee arrived at 8:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Serna

9.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

9.1 Resolution, presentation and invitation to an 85th Anniversary celebration by the Spiritual Assembly of Baha'i of Sacramento.

The resolution was presented by Mayor Serna.

9.2 Proclamation declaring the week of October 18-26,1997 as "Second Chance Week"

The resolution was presented by Mayor Serna.

10.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

11.0 STAFF REPORTS

11.1 City Preparedness for Winter Season 1997/98. (D-All)

Bill Edgar, City Manager, stated that the various City departments would be training jointly with the County of Sacramento for emergency

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preparedness during the month of November. He said the floods of 1986, 1995 and 1997 revealed several areas of emergency preparedness and flood control protection that needed to be improved. Many City departments had undergone significant changes to lessen the impact of localized flooding and mitigate the vulnerability of personal and public property due to flooding.

Gary Costamagna, Fire Chief, said that staff wanted to present an overview of what improvements had been instituted since last year, and also to indicate how plans have been modified in the event of El Nino or severe weather this winter. He said Elizabeth Morse, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service was here this evening to discuss El Nino.

Ms. Morse presented some history of El Nino, saying that written records of "El Ninos" had been kept since 1597. El Ninos were discovered to originate in the Pacific Ocean and caused the waters near Peru to warm dramatically. These warm waters affected weather systems up the western coasts of Southern, Central and Northern America. Strong El Ninos tended to bring warmer average temperatures and also increase the likelihood of greater than normal precipitation. However, she stressed that high amounts of rain did not necessarily guarantee flooding.

Ms. Morse said that 28 El Nino events had occurred this century, with 8 El Nino events since 1970. Of all the El Nino years, 33% were significantly wetter than normal, while 33% were significantly drier than normal.

According to Ms. Morse, the anticipated 1997-98 El Nino actually began last Spring. It appears to be as strong as the 1982/83 El Nino, but with different timing. It was expected to continue into the Spring. She said this year there is an increased risk of higher-than-normal precipitation; however, the amount of rain (or snow) was much less important than the rate at which it falls (or melts).

Ms. Morse stated that the El Nino was just one part of a very complicated series of factors which determines what the weather will be. The intensity and spacing of storms was the key to whether the winter would be wild or mild.

Councilman Cohn asked if El Nino years had colder storms.

Ms. Morse replied that typically that was true, with higher snow levels.

Mr. Costamagna stated that Bert McCollam from the Utilities department would be the next speaker.

Mr. McCollam showed a series of overheads related to the Utility department's operations. He spoke of rainfall statistics, especially during "Type 1" El Nino years. He said that during Type 1 El Ninos, there are on average more days with measurable rainfall.

Mr. McCollam spoke of Federal flood control appropriations for the region which total more than \$32 million. He also discussed the department's multi-hazard emergency plans which include rain patrol plans and floodgate closure plans. He said the department maintained monitoring systems and pumping plants. Employees were well trained in rain patrol; the department provided flood fight materials in the form of sand and sand bags; and provided the public with training and flood awareness literature.

Mr. McCollam spoke about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and said they would be in Sacramento next July for on-site emergency planning seminars.

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Mr. McCollam also spoke about levee maintenance within the City and the cooperative efforts of Federal, State and City personnel for monitoring the levees. He also spoke about the drainage ditches being cleaned of debris and weeds.

Councilman Pannell asked if the drainage ditches near Morrison Creek had been cleaned. Mr. McCollam replied they would all be cleaned by November 15th.

Mr. Pannell also spoke about need for the department to ensure that all sewer drains were unclogged.

Mr. McCollam replied there were more than 40,000 sewer drains throughout the City. Staff would do its best to clean and maintain them.

Mr. Pannell suggested sending a mailer to all City residents to remind them to clean the gutters on their streets.

Chief Costamagna replied that staff already had a mailer planned for November to address that issue.

Mr. Pannell expressed concern with SMUD's operation, especially as it related to power to pumping stations.

Councilwoman Hammond referred to Attachment B in the report that listed Capital Improvement Projects to prevent flooding. She asked why no money had been spent in her District, saying this was not a fair share of City resources.

Gary Reents, Engineering Division, stated that the new combined system, when built, would benefit her district.

Ms. Hammond said that Hollywood Park needed improvements as the streets typically flooded.

Mr. Reents replied that staff would be working on solutions for Hollywood Park. Their first response had been to areas where there was inside structural damage when flooding occurred.

Councilman Waters asked when the 350,000 sandbags that had been ordered would be delivered.

Mike Kashiwagi, Public Works Director, replied that they had been received, and currently the City had 500,000 sand bags in storage.

Mr. Waters commended staff for what they had accomplished during the past two years to fix problems that had existed during the last floods and to address potential problems.

Councilman Cohn said he was glad to hear about FEMA's proposed training in Sacramento next July. He said containerizing green wastes would be a great help during the rainy season, and hoped that the citizens of Sacramento would agree to this change in the future. He commended staff on their preparedness.

Councilman Steinberg suggested that former ballot measures to containerize green waste in the City might have failed because the issue of safety was probably not addressed.

Mr. Steinberg said Tahoe Park had been hit hard by flooding last year, and asked what could be done until the new CIP projects were completed and benefited that area.

Mr. Reents suggested that because the City would be better prepared this winter, perhaps flooding could be avoided or at least lessened.

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Councilwoman Fargo asked about coordination with other agencies and mutual aid agreements.

Mr. McCollam spoke of the various local and regional agencies with whom the City coordinated for emergency issues and said written mutual aid agreements were in place and renewed each year as part of the City's emergency plan.

Ms. Fargo asked about testing the City's flood gates.

Mr. McCollam replied that roads would have to be closed to do that. He added that staff felt very confident about the flood gates.

Mr. Waters spoke about the pilot program of 750 residents in his district who were containerizing their garden clippings.

Mayor Serna recommended doing pilot programs in any of the areas that had flooded in the past.

Reina Schwartz, Solid Waste Division Manager, said that certainly could be done on a volunteer basis.

Mayor Serna asked if the various CIP projects would help District 5, especially Hollywood Park.

Gary Reents replied yes, they would. He presented a brief overview of the \$11.6 million in drainage infrastructure improvements.

Mike Kashiwagi spoke about the primary responsibilities of his Public Works department. He said the Street department monitored and would be responsible for the closure of 27 flood gates throughout the City. Rivers were monitored constantly during storms, streets were barricaded and sand and sandbags were located in two locations.

Mr. Kashiwagi said animal care and sheltering was also handled by Public Works. If extra assistance was needed in this area, a private organization, the United Animal Nations, worked with City staff. Public Works also partnered with other City departments for support with garden refuse collection.

According to Mr. Kashiwagi, department personnel did levee patrols and if necessary, Public Works could keep its fleet management operation open 24 hours/day. He said the Fleet division had written cooperative agreements on file with outside vendors, and renewed these each year. These vendors could be reached 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. And lastly, the department had made several improvements to its phone system for better communication capabilities.

Alan Boyd, Recreation Superintendent, spoke about the Neighborhoods, Planning and Development Services Department's (NPDS) responsibilities and services. The primary responsibility is care and shelter, which they closely collaborate with the local Red Cross. The City identifies locations, helps to set them up and lends logistical support.

Mr. Boyd said it was a tiered system of care and shelter. If a small population is affected, the City offers vouchers. For localized flooding, various locations, including high schools and community centers are used. For major evacuations, the City would direct people to Mather and McClellan Air Force Base or to surrounding counties' predetermined facilities.

Mr. Boyd also spoke about tree services offered during storms, and added that the Public Works and Utility departments lend support in this area, when needed. In addition, NPDS also supported communication operations by coordinating with the Office of Emergency Service (OES), by offering Geographic Information Services (GIS) and by coordinating volunteer organizations. Finally, NPDS performed

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inspections of buildings to determine if the structures were safe.

Captain Rick Braziel, Police department, discussed the Police Department's role in emergency preparedness and response. He said the department had its own mini EOC's from which they coordinated the responsibilities of evacuation, security by air, land and boat and crowd control, especially at sand bag locations.

Captain Braziel said traffic control was another important function of the department. This function was assisted by Reserve personnel and by officers from other jurisdictions. He said the department's helicopter was available for rescue operations, if absolutely necessary.

Captain Braziel said the Police department was crossing-training with the Fire department to offer the best protection to the community in times of emergencies.

Mary Lou Pierce, Emergency Services Officer, said she worked out of the Fire department, and provided public information services to the community via neighborhood association meetings/presentations. She spoke about working with the Public Information Officer in the Utilities department, Liz Brenner, by preparing people to be ready with a plan during an emergency. Educational brochures were sent with City utility billings, and public service announcements were prepared for local radio and television channels.

Ms. Pierce spoke of the success of the City Operator program, and how it allowed the public to be in contact with the City.

Chief Costamagna spoke about the Fire Department as the lead agency in emergency response. He said the two major responsibilities of the department were rescue and coordination of the management center or "EOC". He also spoke about the department's swift water rescue team, the incident management course that all managers attend, and how the EOC and Fire Operation centers coordinate.

Chief Costamagna spoke of the testing and training that would be occurring throughout November. He said the EOC was set up in the Convention Center, and featured an increased coordination with the County of Sacramento. He said both entities had taken what they learned in the last flood in order to be more responsive in the future.

Councilwoman Hammond asked about the emergency lines and the Centrex system.

Ms. Pierce replied that there was a Centrex system and a back-up system. Also, the City had contracted with Pacific Bell and AT&T for cell phones.

Mayor Serna asked what staff had learned from the EOC in last year's exercise.

Chief Costamagna replied that the key is communication, both internally and externally.

Mayor Serna asked if there were any mechanical problems; Chief Costamagna replied no, there were not.

Mayor Serna stressed the importance of all the public information officers speaking with one voice.

Chief Costamagna replied that all the PIO's would be grouped together in the EOC, and would be advised of having one central report to the press and to the public.

Mayor Serna asked how citizens could get their questions answered.

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Ms. Pierce replied through the City Operator.

Chief Costamagna stated that the City also had a liaison placed at SMUD to coordinate information about pumping stations.

Councilman Pannell re-stated his concern that the City needed to work with SMUD for better coordination of information about pumping stations.

Councilwoman Fargo asked how apartment residents would be notified, especially if they did not get City utility bills and their inserts.

Ms. Pierce replied that there would be radio announcements, billboard displays, etc.

Ms. Fargo recommended contacting the Sacramento Apartment Managers' Association, or to perhaps work with the phone company or other utilities to include informational flyers in their billing.

Ms. Pierce added that staff was also making presentations to neighborhood associations.

Councilman Pannell recommended having churches disseminate information, and to advertise on railcars and buses.

Councilman Steinberg recommended public service announcements on Cable T.V., especially in languages other than English.

Mayor Serna recommended using the Spanish Information Radio.

This information was received and filed.

12.0 SHRA

None

13.0 CITIZENS ADDRESSING COUNCIL AGENCY OR AUTHORITIES BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE OR TELEPHONICALLY ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

13.1 The following people spoke in favor of having a low rider car show in Sacramento: Phil Goldvarg, John Tacata, Effren Guttierrez, Joe Borrego, Elizabeth Contreras and Terry Stark.

Mayor Serna responded that the City was not against having a low rider car show but was concerned about the possibility of a cruise and the enormous safety problems associated with that occurrence.

14.0 COUNCIL IDEAS AND QUESTIONS

14.1 Mayor Serna stated that he would be withdrawing the nominations he had made to the Sports Commission at the afternoon meeting.

14.2 Councilwoman Hammond announced three events in her district on Saturday, October 18th: Fall Fling at Lawrence Park, 26th St. and Lawrence Drive from 11-3; Stockton Boulevard Resource Center Job Fair from 11-3; and Franklin Boulevard PAC Community Improvement Day, from 8:30-12:00.

14.3 Councilman Waters requested a report back from Utilities Department Director, Jim Sequeira, on fluorination of City water.

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- 14.4 Councilwoman Fargo announced that the first Salmon Festival would be held October 18th and 19th and would include activities at Nimbus Hatchery and other locations.
- 14.5 Councilman Kerth recommended agendizing a showing of the video presented at the recent Fire Department's 125th anniversary gala.
- 14.6 Councilman Cohn requested a report back from Gary Stonehouse regarding the notification process about the public meeting at Blue Diamond Cannery on Thursday, October 16th from 5:30-7:30 related to Loaves and Fishes' Sunday feedings at Friendship Park.

15.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

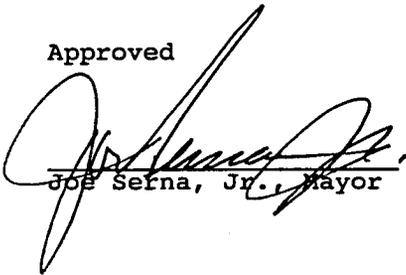
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted


Valerie A. Burrowes, City Clerk

Approved


Joe Serna, Jr., Mayor

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