

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.43
(ID # 19741)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, August 02, 2022


FROM : SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR PEREZ: Response to Local Crisis at the Oasis Mobile Home Park in the Thermal Community of the 4th District.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Executive Office to work with Department Heads, the State and Federal Governments, Water Boards, Other Public Entities, and Non-Profit Organizations to take immediate steps to protect the health and well-being of the residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park.

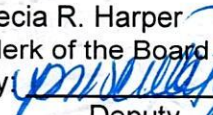
ACTION:


Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 4th. District 7/29/2022

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: August 2, 2022
xc: BOS-District 4, E.O.

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
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BACKGROUND:

For a number of years, the Federal, State and County governments have been dealing with a crisis in the Oasis Mobile Home Park in the Eastern Coachella Valley. The mobile home park has been cited repeatedly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for arsenic in its water, and has substandard housing conditions. There are problems with lack of maintenance on the mobile homes, overflowing trash, and other health and safety concerns. The challenges to improving living conditions are vast, as it involves a number of complex issues including a mix of Federal and County jurisdiction on the park; tribal reservation lands; multiple property owners (now involved in a probate action); lack of infrastructure; and very limited number of other affordable housing options in the Eastern Coachella Valley. In the meantime, conditions continue to worsen.

To meet this challenge, the County has partnered with the Federal and State governments, water boards, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups. Notably, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia was able to secure \$30 million in the Fiscal Year 21/22 state budget for Riverside County to provide emergency housing and infrastructure improvements for the residents of the Oasis Mobile Home Park. This was a critical investment with the real potential to improve the quality of life for the more than 1,000 residents of Oasis. The County has been actively working to relocate families. The effort has not been easy, and we have much more work to do. Meanwhile, the park owners continue to allow new residents to move into substandard conditions.

Recently, the situation has worsened and we are now dealing with an imminent health and safety risk.

On Wednesday, July 27th, at one of our community meetings in the area, I was informed for the first time that the owners of the park issued a notice to the residents on July 1st that the water should not be used for any purpose, including drinking, bathing, cooking and brushing one's teeth. The owner is proceeding to provide only one gallon of water per resident per day, which is clearly not acceptable to meet basic human needs. My office has been working with the assistance of County staff, FIND Food Bank, and other partners to implement immediate stop-gap measures for additional water and food deliveries, access to shower facilities, etc.. We must, however, find more interim and permanent solution to work through this crisis.

I am asking the Executive Office generally, and the County Executive Officer specifically in his capacity as the Director of Emergency Services, to take immediate steps to protect the health and well-being of the residents of Oasis Mobile Home Park and to consider the use of all available tools and resources, including but not limited to mobilizing public, private, and non-profit partners; evaluating legal actions; identifying methods to fast-track delivery of affordable housing projects and streamline relocation efforts; and explore any and all means that lead to an immediate improvement of living conditions at Oasis.

