Natomas Community Association
Executive Board Minutes
March 20, 2019
South Natomas Community Center
2921 Truxel Rd, Sacramento, CA 95833
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

1. **Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM**

2. **Attendance:**

   Executive Board Members: Dan Aderholt , Nikki Chand, Lizzie Edmondson, Ericka Harden, Sachiko Konastsu, Sandee Smith, and Leslie Taylor.

   Excused Absences: Stella Chambers and Janae Grant.

   Public Officials and Organization Representatives:
   District 3 Councilmember: Jeff Harris
   Councilmember Harris's Constituent Affairs: Jocelynn Navarro
   District 1 Councilmember Angelique Ashby Representative; Erica Castillo
   South Natomas Library: Erica Naranjo
   Sacramento Police Department: K Bodner

   Public Attendees: Mara Pabon, Grace Kaufman, Annette Emery, Sharon Jennings, Mariana Sabeniano, and Kate Gianolini.

3. **Agenda Changes –** The Sacramento Police Department were busy on calls. They arrived part-way through the meeting and provided an update then. The agenda was also adjusted to allow for Erica Naranjo to speak about upcoming events at the South Natomas Library.

4. **District 3 Code Enforcement Follow-up - Jocelyn Navarro, Councilmember Harris' Office**
   - In October 2018, Ericka Harden and Sandee Smith worked with Sacramento Police Department to conduct a code enforcement day in South Natomas. To prepare for this day Ericka and Sandee canvassed the area and created a master list of more than 700 code enforcement violations in the area West of Truxel, North of West El Camino and South of San Juan. Sacramento PD participated in the code enforcement day by citing violations and towing some abandoned vehicles. Since the initial effort very few issues have been followed-up on and many of the abandoned cars have not been towed.

   - Jocelyn has been working with Jose Mendez who is in charge of code enforcement issues in the Natomas area to address many of the issues that were initially reported.
     - Jocelyn provided Ericka Harden with a list of cases that remain open and cases that have been closed since October. Jocelyn will also email copies of these lists to Ericka.
     - Jocelyn encouraged Ericka to talk directly with Jose and said that he would be willing to attend a future NCA meeting or attend a specific meeting dedicated to code enforcement.

- Sacramento Police Department is working on improving the vehicle abatement times. They have been reduced from 94 to 12 days. Their goal is to get it down to one day.

- Ericka Harden gave an example of one of the cars that was initially tagged in October, but has not been towed since. This car has at least five tags on it, but it hasn't been removed. Ericka will send the picture to Jocelyn.

- Ericka Harden also shared that she has seen a difference in how code enforcement issues are addressed in North Natomas versus South Natomas.
    - She parked her car slightly on a curb in front of her house and within hours code enforcement came by and tagged her car, whereas in the South cars sit for months, even when a report is filed.
    - Ericka believes that parking enforcement responds more quickly and diligently in North Natomas.
    - Councilmember Harris disagrees and thinks that there is equal enforcement and a similar number of issues are reported and resolved in the North and South.

5. District 3 (South Natomas) Update – Councilmember Jeff Harris

South Natomas Road Conditions:

- Councilmember Harris has been receiving complaints about the road conditions in South Natomas. The complaints have been primarily coming from one River City Commons resident.

- Road conditions all over the city are degraded. There is a grading system for road conditions. In this grading system 70 is the number that represents "adequate road conditions". For the entire city of Sacramento, the roads are graded at a 66. District 3 as a whole is graded at 60. City wide we are 66. At District 3 we are at 60. Councilmember Harris provided a map that shows the grading system as it pertains to District 3. (Appendix A)

- In the current city budget, there are no funds for repaving the roads. Instead of using overlays to fix the roads they are using slurry cells which is a lower quality material that breaks down quicker.
    - A few years ago, Measure B failed. Measure B would have provided city funding to improve roadways. It was defeated by less than 1% of the vote.
    - Senate Bill 1 passed a few years. This Bill brings in a few million dollars in funding per year, but falls short of what Measure B would have brought in.
    - With so many competing priorities there is not enough revenue remaining to complete this kind of work unless the City Council decides that this is a priority.

Measure U Committee and Funding:

- The Measure U committee will start convening soon. Measure U is projected to bring about $50 Million/year in tax revenue. Currently the city council budget is over $1 Billion/year.

- There are a number of competing priorities for this money. Jeff Harris thinks there is a need for more police officers, resources for the homeless etc. Currently if your house is burglarized there are not enough police officers to come to your house to file a report. Because of this shortage, citizens can only make online reports about many crimes.

Homelessness:

- The city of Sacramento is dedicated to this issue. The state will also be providing funding to combat homelessness, 20 million dollars this year. Combined with city resources the city will have $50 million dollars.

- Homelessness is a complicated issue and there are a number of contributing factors, like the housing crisis, loss of homes due to fires, drug use (particularly opioids and methamphetamines), mental health issues, and access to mental health care. Also, Councilman Harris believes that Proposition 47 that let felons out of prison and raised the bar for what crimes are considered felonies has contributed to the crisis.

- District 3 has a very pronounced homeless problem, in part, because of the American River. The number of homeless people that reside on the American Riverway has increased. There are a number of crimes that have taken place within the homeless camps and they are not necessarily safe for those individuals living there. There have been four murders in District 3 in the last year in the homeless camps and there are a number of women that have been assaulted.

- They city and county cannot move homeless campers because of the District Court of Appeal ruling in the case of Martin vs. Bose.
    - This decision states that moving homeless campers is cruel and unusual punishment unless there is a bed or place in a shelter where they can be moved too.
    - Sacramento has very few beds to offer homeless individuals with the limited shelter space so most homeless people can only be moved if there is a safety issue, but they still need a place to move them to.
    - The city actively works with not for profits to identify when there is an opening in one of their shelters, but there is rarely an opening. Harris guesses that there are about eight openings per year.

- The current Railyard Shelter is set to close at the end of April. This is the only city-run shelter open at the moment. The owners have chosen not to renew the lease. They will be opening a marijuana business at the location instead. They originally agreed to lease the building to the city for the shelter because they were waiting for their permits, now their permits have been approved.

- Each councilmember has been asked to locate areas where homeless shelters can be erected. One of the sites that Harris has identified in District 3 is located on the outskirts of Cal Expo.
    - If approved, a 100-bed temporary shelter will be erected. Once this is up and running the city will be able to move individuals to the shelters. They will be prioritizing the most problematic camps.

- If approved, this shelter will not be operational until October/November. The city is moving as fast as they can. It takes time to acquire the tents and to find a certified "operator". There will be a gap with the railyard shelter closing and the temporary shelters opening.
- Another potential temporary shelter site is X Street and Alhambra Blvd.
- Other districts are having more difficult identifying sites because communities are protesting. For example, on Florin Road the city identified a RT parking lot as a site, but there have been large protests. Community members would rather not have shelters and say that the shelter will be harmful to their way of life.

- The shelters are only one part of the equation the city also needs to identify more transitional and permanent housing solutions. If the system if going to work individuals can't stay in the shelters for long periods of time and they need to be moved to other housing so more homeless can be helped. The council has started to look at other types of properties like hotels to purchase to provide transitional housing. Two hotels have been identified so far:
  - Motel 6 on Alhambra Blvd (74 rooms)
  - Capital Park Hotel on 9th Street (180 beds)

  These are properties that have been somewhat problematic as they are, and the surrounding communities want them to be improved. They canvassed the city for these types of locations and in all identified five. These are the only two sites that are still being considered as an option.

- Jeff Harris along with other city council representatives has been travelling to other cities to see how they address homelessness. He has been to Seattle WA, Portland OR, Los Angeles CA, and Austin TX. He believes that the approach that Sacramento has outlined is superior to what other cities have done because it is far more comprehensive and will aim to also address some of the systemic issues that lead to homelessness.
  - Sharon Jennings asked if the Council has considered buying a large plot of land where yurts or small houses could be erected.
  - Councilman Harris' Response: There are two cities that have done something like this that they visited:
    - Austin built small houses for 160 people. It is incredibly expensive and because of the cost, it is difficult to scale.
    - The city of Stockton provided 100, 10x10 tents and a plot of land under the Freeway. They provide security and sanitation facilities and call it a "safe ground". They do not provide additional services.
  - It depends on what you want to achieve. We need to build a comprehensive program here that addresses: *1. Safety 2. Drug Use 3. Services 4. Long-Term Housing.* This is going to be a long-term problem that is going to take a lot of time to fix. First, we need shelters and temporary housing and we need to be simultaneously creating programs to address systemic issues.

- The Army Corps of Engineers will not be able to conduct the work with people living there and the homeless population will be forced to be dispersed. The homeless will not be moved to a specific location. The Army Corps of Engineers and other construction teams have already experienced some of their equipment and supplies being stolen.

- Dan Aderholt – Works with the homeless population extensively and helps lead the clean-up crews that clean up the trash he stated the following:
    - There are thousands of homeless people in the city. Many of them aren't violent and clean up after themselves, when given the opportunity. With a majority of the homeless people, if the city and county provided them with trash bags they would clean up their own trash. Some of the homeless people are hoarders and give the rest of the homeless population a bad reputation. Dan thinks that the city and county should proactively go after the hoarders to keep their area clean. The other homeless people don't like the hoarders either and don't want them in their encampments.
    - Jeff Harris' Response:
        - Distributing trash bags would be ineffective to a degree. The city and county have to be able to pick them up and they logistically can't just pick up trash bags everywhere along Garden Highway. The street teams (teams of homeless people) that get a stipend to pick up trash have been effective at cleaning up the trash.
        - There are issues with citing or targeting homeless people because of the amount of trash. It is a free speech issue. It would come down to a judgement call on "what is too much trash to have". Additionally, he believes that this type of action would not be effective at changing behavior because the citations are inconsequential. It isn't a big enough offence to bring them to jail.

- Trash Contamination in the Waterways – A lot of the trash from the homeless ends up in the water ways. The Bay area has actually fined the city of Sacramento for contamination. Jeff Harris actually wants the Bay area to keep on the pressure because it prioritizes the clean-up. The trash is much easier to clean up in the urban setting rather than in nature.
    - There are active efforts by Dan and his crew to clean up the waterways. They are currenting cleaning up the Steelhead Creek area.

- Jocelynn Navarro distributed fliers describing the city's efforts to combat homelessness.

<u>Garden Highway Upcoming Construction Projects</u>

There will be two separate projects on Garden Highway in the upcoming months. Project 1 – Levee Repair and Project 2 – laying piping under Garden Highway at the I-5 Freeway Interchange. Jeff Harris' office has been receiving phone calls and emails from concerned citizens about how these projects are going to impact the traffic and safety in the South Natomas area.

Project 1 – Levee Repair:

- This project is vital to protecting South Natomas from flooding. They will be repairing the wall of the levee to protect from seepage. The completion of this project will also help ensure that South Natomas homeowners receive the lowest flood insurance rates.
- The project will be completed in phases. Councilman Harris believes that It is not going to be "Armageddon".

- Phase 1: will commence on April 15. Garden Highway will be closed in between Truxel and Northgate. Citizens will still be able to get to I-5 from Truxel Road and any roads West of it. They are estimating that this portion of the road will remain closed for ~3 months. Northgate will remain open for the entirety of this work.
- Phase 2: The area between Truxel and Natomas Park will be closed. Individuals will be able to access the Interstate from Natomas Park and other roads West of it.
- Phase 3: Gateway Oaks to the I-5 Freeway Interchange.

Project 2 – Pipe Installation Under Garden Highway at I-5 Freeway Interchange:

- The interchange will be closed at certain amounts of time. They haven't designed the project yet and they are still waiting for the TCPP to be released so there are no details that he can share with the community about when this will occur and for how long. He should have that information in the next few days. In previous conversations the contractor has said that some of this work will be performed at night.
- The TCPP will give us an idea about where and for how long the traffic will be diverted. Until we have that plan, we don't know what the impact will be. Even at that point it will be a guess.

Other Projects that may impact traffic – West El-Camino at the Drainage Canal:

- Additional construction will be taking place at West El Camino near the drainage canal. This project may also have an impact on traffic in the area. The date and details for this project have not been determined yet.

Questions from Attendees About the Construction:

- Grace Kaufman, "How will either of these projects affect the RT bus routes?" There will not be a change in the bus schedule, but he will need to talk to RT about any specific changes to bus routes and how that will be impacted.
- Annette Emery, "There are school buses that use the Garden Highway to transport children to schools on the other side of the river, have you been working with the school districts?" Yes, he is aware of this issue and has been in communication with them.
- Kate Gianolini "Will the bicycle paths and entrance to Discovery Park remain open for bicycle commuters?" Yes, bicycles should be able to access Discovery Park during the entirety of the construction.

<u>Northgate Road Closure Notifications:</u>

- Kate Gianolini asked how information is disseminated about when the Northgate Access Road to the 160 is closed due to flooding. In the last few months she was unable to find this information on any of the city's websites and information was google/apple maps were not being updated to note that this road was closed.

- Jeff Harris will look into this. He has also noticed that this information is not always clearly communicated to Natomas residents.

<u>Natomas Area Improvements:</u>

- Over the last year we have accomplished a lot on the Natomas Area:

- Fire Station 15 opened on West El Camino and Truxel – This is the first time that there has been an ambulance in South Natomas.
- The Grocery Outlet Opened at El Camino and Truxel
- These two additions have helped clean up the shopping center in this area. There are fewer reports of drug deals and other criminal behavior.

- Park Renovations - There are new parks Oak Park (opened a few months ago on San Juan, West of Truxel) and Bannon Creek Park. They have also redone a large portion of Gardenland Park in addition to building the shade structure at the Fort Natomas Park at the South Natomas Library.

<u>Stephon Clark Demonstrations:</u>

- There have been demonstrations across the city of Sacramento since District Attorney (DA) Anne Marie Schubert announced that they will not be charging the officers involved in the Stephon Clark Shooting.

- Councilmember Harris has spoken with DA Schubert, she explained that there was no prosecutable offense committed by the officers; therefore, they couldn't fie charges.

- Sacramento Police Department has taken a number of steps to hopefully improve their tactics and mitigate the chances of a shooting like this happening in the future. The police have done the following:
  - Police officers can no longer turn off their body cameras.
  - All Police officers need to undergo mandatory mental health training
  - Made changes to the "Foot Pursuit Policy". Now the first response it to contain the threat instead of neutralizing the threat.

- Other cases where suspects were fatally shot by police:
  - Darrel Richards – The police officers showed restrain and he was given multiple chances to surrender. In the end Mr. Richards drew a weapon and was shot.
  - Joseph Mann - In July 2016, Joseph Mann was shot by police. In Jeff Harris' view this shooting was very different from the others. In this case the threat was contained until two additional officers pulled up the scene and proceeded to shoot him when they were not in mortal danger. In the end, the DA didn't find a prosecutable offence because the officers said that they felt like their lives were in danger. One of the police officers retired and the other was fired from the force.

- These types of incidents have made portions of the public feel like police are above the law and can do anything without repercussions.

- Sachiko Konastsu asked – What needs to change so this doesn't keep happening? Any officer can say that they felt like they were in mortal fear and therefore, won't be prosecuted. Nobody can prove that they were or were not. Can the law be changed so there is a burden of proof? When you are dealing with people with mental health issues

in a crisis they verbally threaten, but they don't necessarily act on them. An officer can use lethal force on anyone.

- Jeff Harris: It has to start with changes to the Police Officer's Bill of Rights and pressure on the state legislature to change the language in the law. Citizens need to put pressure on their state senators and he can put pressure on city officials. There is a proposed law AB 392 that would change the language from "reasonable" force to "necessary" force.
- There are many individuals on the police force that feel that the officers in the Mann case should have been prosecuted.
- Sacramento Police Department and California are on the cutting edge of transparency because the public can get access to body cam footage. The law SB 1421 allows for the public to access the work records for individual police officers.

6. Sacramento Police Department Update – K. Bodner

Concerns from meeting attendees:

- Sandee Smith – People are using the turn lane on Azevedo as a passing lane when traffic is backed up. They are doing this along the entire road from San Juan down to West El Camino. It is typically at its worse in the morning around 8:30 or 9:00 AM.

  Bodner will alter Sergeant Armstrong who is the Traffic Sergeant for this area about this issue. Going forward people should call 311 or use the 311 app and report these issues. Everything that they report will get routed to the traffic units/sergeants.

- Annette Emery – There is a homeless camp that has formed on Morel Court at the end of the cul-de-sac. This same area has been experiencing a number of care thefts.

- Annette Emery – How can we connect the police department with a neighborhood watch we want to start? Once the group is assembled let Bodner know and he will find the time to hold a meeting with the assembled group.

Updates from the Police Department:

- In the Natomas area vehicle burglaries are one of the bigger issues. The Police Department is devoting a number of resources to these cases. They have devoted three officers to these cases in the North Area.

- Down by Garden Highway there might be a small percentage of thefts from the homeless population, but the bulk of theft is coming from the Bay area. They call it smash and grab. A car will pull up closely to another vehicle and they will break the window and steal the content. To protect yourselves and neighbors bring all valuables inside. Don't leave anything in your car.

7. Erica Naranjo South Natomas Library

Erica will not be able to attend April's meeting so she is going to provide an update on some of the events that the South Natomas Library will be holding through May.

Upcoming Events:

- March 29th 4:30-5:30 PM - Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Children can bring their stuffed animals to the library to spend the night. Volunteers will pose the stuffed animals all over the library. The stuffed animals should be picked up on March 30th. All kids will receive a photo book that contains pictures of what their animals did at the library overnight.

- April 17, 2019 - Día de Los Niños: Fiesta with Elephant and Piggie
  Special guests will be Elephant and Piggie from the book series. There will be dancing and a lot of music.

- April 27, 2019 – Robotics Class, 4-6th Grade
  Registration opens April 1st. The last time this class was offered it filled up within a few days. Learn the basics of robotics and engineering in this STEM-focused workshop led by SES Robotics. Get hands-on experience with LEGO robot building and programming, and take a turn driving a large team robot! Plus, use our 3D printers to create your very own custom 3D printed design. Event is open only to students in 4th-6th grade. This event is sponsored by Jeff Harris' office.

- 3-D printing design Classes – the classes are about learning the basics of computer drafting design. What you design, you print. This month is a functional container. You can make a different design. Part of the design process is to change the dimensions.

- The Book Club will be holding additional meetings in the afternoon to accommodate people who can't make it to evening meetings.

- The library will start to hold community forums utilizing the Harwood Community Conversations Method. These forums will gather community members to discuss strengths, aspirations, and challenges. The library will take information shared at this meeting and build programs based on how the library can help the community achieve their goals. This information can also be shared to other community groups and representatives.

  These meetings haven't been scheduled yet but are projected to start in the summer. Erica would like our input on timing of these meetings. They can even hold meetings when the library is closed or if it doesn't align with her work schedule. Their goal is to hold three of these meetings by the end of the calendar year.

8. Public Comments:

- Annette Emery – Last Saturday they had the opening day parade in Northgate. It was cold, but successful. During this event the Gardenland/Northgate Association (GNNA) asked residents what life was like in Northgate. Top Things in Northgate were:
  - Ethnic grocery stores
  - Ethnic restaurants
  - The community garden

  The following are the things that residents most want:
  1. Coffee shop - one where people can meet and hang out. There are no coffee shops in the area. They would prefer a mom and pop over a chain.

2. Butterfly Garden

9. Natomas Community Association (NCA) Reports

President's Report – Ericka Harden:

- On February 24, 2019 an executive board member resigned. This position was filled on February 27, 2019 by Sachiko Konastsu.

- Over the last month Ericka attended the following events/meetings on behalf of NCA: GNNA, Tacos with Police, North Captian's Meeting, Opening Day Parade Ceremony in Northgate, and Natomas Unified School District Board Meeting.

- Ericka responded to 127 NCA emails.

- Ericka would like anyone that has any feedback about NCA or her to reach out her one-on-one so any outstanding issues or concerns can be resolved.

Treasurer's Report – Ericka Harden:

- There is currently $1,821.00 in the NCA Account.

Scholarship Fund:

- NCA sent letters to our representatives asking them to support the NCA Scholarship Fund. Angelique Ashley's office committed to donate to this. Jeff Harris's office continues to support this effort, and Ericka is talking with Steve Hansen's Office as well.

Strategic Planning Meeting – Leslie Taylor

- The NCA Executive Board will be holding a strategic planning meeting on Sunday, April 14, 2019 to discuss the priorities and future projects of NCA.

Other Announcements:

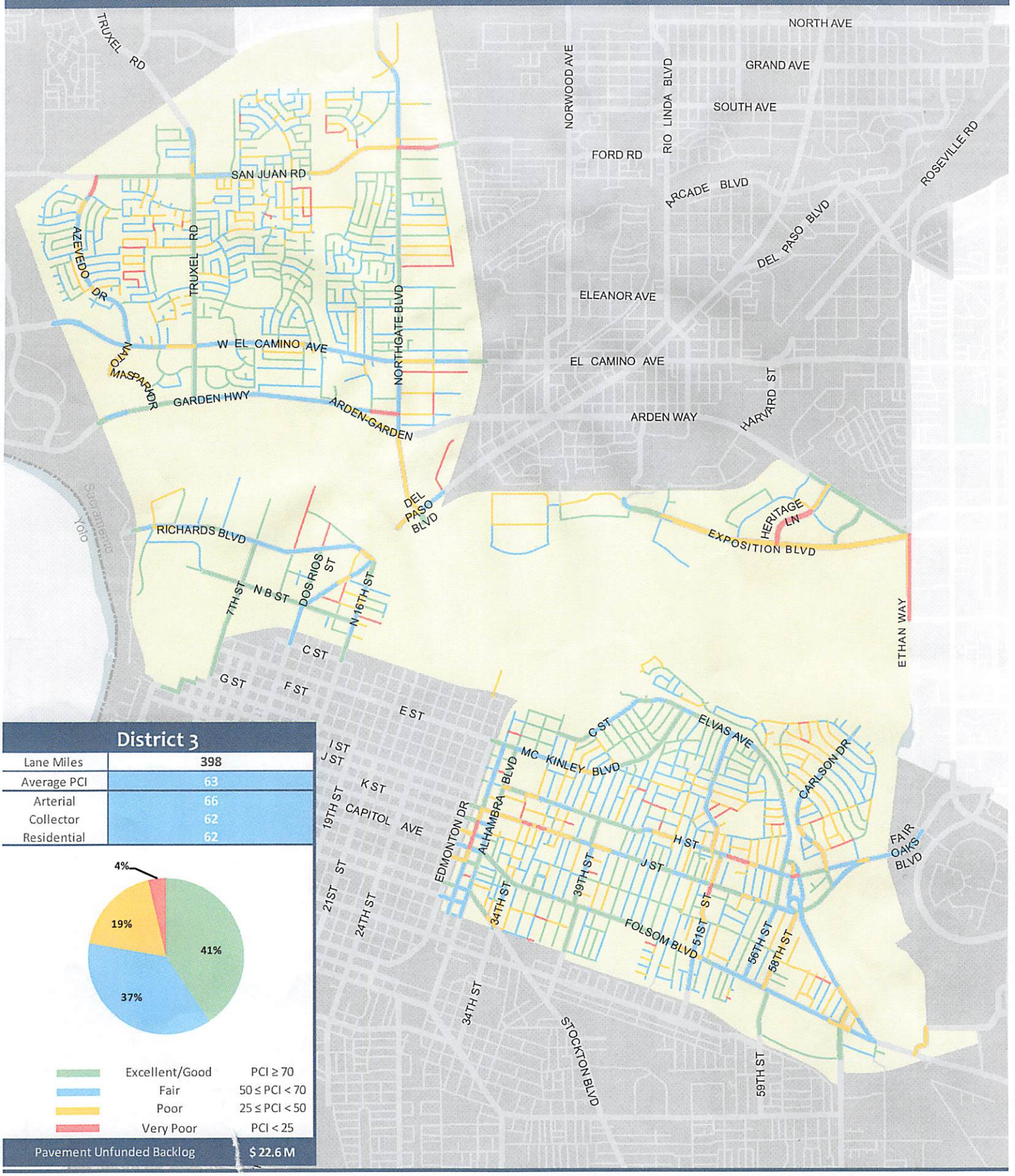
- Dan Anderholt will be unable to attend the monthly NCA meetings for the next 1-2 months. He will be attending his CERT class.

- Lizzie Edmondson asked that attendees please visit the NCA website at: www.natomascommunity.org and provide feedback about what other information would be helpful to have on the website.

10. Meeting Adjourned 8:01 PM

City of Sacramento

Appendix A



District 3

Lane Miles	398
Average PCI	63
Arterial	66
Collector	62
Residential	62

Excellent/Good	PCI ≥ 70
Fair	50 ≤ PCI < 70
Poor	25 ≤ PCI < 50
Very Poor	PCI < 25
Pavement Unfunded Backlog	$ 22.6 M

City of SACRAMENTO
Department of Public Works

July 2017

Pavement Condition Index (PCI)
Council District 3

0 0.5 1 Miles

City of
SACRAMENTO

Our strategy to solve homelessness:
Safety | Stability | Success

The City of Sacramento has developed a comprehensive strategy for addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness while ensuring the well-being of all residents and businesses.

With community-wide coordination, we are committed to solving homelessness for individuals and families, and to making our community stronger and safer for all.

How the City is helping people get off the streets

1.

SAFETY

Addressing the immediate safety needs of people experiencing homelessness.

2.

STABILITY

Quickly connecting people to health and supportive services necessary for stability.

3.

SUCCESS

Helping people transition into more permanent housing and achieve long-term success.

For more information about the City's strategy to solve homelessness, visit:
homeless.cityofsacramento.org

City of
SACRAMENTO

How you can help

The issue of homelessness affects everyone.

Please join us in our mission to maintain the safety and well-being of all Sacramento residents.

Be a part of the solution

Visit **homeless.cityofsacramento.org** for ways to help and a list of our community partners. They include:

Pathways to Health + Home
A program that coordinates services to improve the health and housing stability of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Sacramento Steps Forward
The lead agency in Sacramento County responsible for overseeing region-wide efforts to prevent and solve homelessness.

Downtown Streets Team
This non-profit hires unhoused people to clean up streets near shelters.

Health & Safety

Report occupied encampments within the city by calling the Sacramento Police non-emergency number at 916-264-5471.

Report unoccupied encampments within the city by calling the City's 311 Service Center at 311 or 916-808-5011.

If you witness any criminal activity, call 911 immediately.

City of SACRAMENTO

Solving Homelessness in Sacramento

The City of Sacramento is committed to solving homelessness for individuals and families, and to making our community stronger and safer for all.

Solving homelessness does not mean that people will never again experience homelessness.

It means the City and its partners have a coordinated, responsive plan in place to ensure the **Safety**, **Stability** and **Success** of our most vulnerable residents.

Safety

Address the immediate safety needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Stability

Quickly connect people to health and support services necessary for stability.

Success

Help people transition into permanent housing and achieve long-term success.

The City is working with many community partners to solve homelessness, including local governments, non-profits, charitable foundations, health-care providers and faith-based organizations.

Individuals can access help in many ways.

Every day, outreach workers and officers on the **Sacramento Police Department's IMPACT Team** build trust with unsheltered individuals and help them get off the streets and into shelters.

Individuals enroll in programs such as **Pathways to Health + Home** that connect them to health care and other vital services.

As their lives become stabilized, individuals are transitioned into more permanent housing with the assistance of case managers.

Progress

Safety

The City is committed to providing safety for all its residents, including those experiencing homelessness, while maintaining and enhancing quality of life in our community.

4,800+

Responses by the Sacramento Police Deaprtment's IMPACT team to calls involving homelessness in 2018

Stability

The City is committed to connecting individuals with health and social services so they can transition from the streets or shelters into more stable conditions.

900+

Individuals enrolled in Pathways to Health + Home through 2018

94,534

Shelter-bed nights funded by the City from July to December 2018

Success

The City is committed to helping individuals who have achieved stability move into more permanent housing and maintain long-term success.

23%

Pathways to Health + Home participants who have moved into transitional or permanent housing

$20 million

Funding received in 2018 from the State of California for local homeless relief

Community Commitment

The issue of homelessness affects everyone. Please join us in our mission to maintain the safety and well-being of all residents.

Visit **homeless.cityofsacramento.org** for ways to help and a list of our community partners. They include:

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- If you witness any criminal activity, call **911** immediately.