

Excerpts of Pat Bates' Swearing-in Speech

As many of you know, I began my campaign for Supervisor two years ago and only stand here before you today as the Fifth District Supervisor because of the incredible support I received from my family, friends, and legions of dedicated volunteers – many of whom are here this morning to rightfully share this very special event with me.

Also, I want to say thank you to a few special friends...

To: Jeanette Krembas and Bill McDonald – who walked over 5,000 homes in our precinct walking / voter outreach program.

To: Paul Whitelock – who personally delivered over a thousand yard signs requested by my supporters throughout the Fifth District.

To: Dorothy Wedel, John Schuetz and Virginia Kincaid – for the countless hours they gave volunteering at my campaign headquarters.

To: Lynn and Everett Stone – who stuffed tens of thousands of envelopes with invitations to our “meet the candidate” neighborhood coffees.

To: All my financial donors whose support helped buy the stamps for all that mail.

And last, but not least...

To: Sergio Prince, my campaign manager – who single-handedly convinced over 100 people to host coffees for me in their homes and businesses so that I would have the opportunity to hear the concerns of Fifth District voters and share ideas on what needs to be done to maintain the quality of life we enjoy as residents of this great county. As a result, I was able to personally meet and speak with thousands of constituents in their homes & businesses.

First and foremost on their minds was the growing problem of traffic congestion and how it is eroding our quality of life – more time sitting in traffic, away from our families, making it harder to get to work or social & recreation activities.

The voters of the Fifth District strongly supported Measure M, and my pledge to them is to ensure the projects programmed in Measure M for traffic congestion relief move forward with urgency. I will call upon my colleagues on the Board and in Sacramento to work together to implement regulations and procedures that shorten the timeline for delivery of transportation projects. It is important that those who supported Measure M and agreed to continue taxing themselves for these projects are able to see them actualized in their lifetimes.

Another major concern expressed by residents as I traveled the district is the County's financial condition. The unfunded liability in the County employee pension & retiree health care plans weighs heavily on the minds of Orange County taxpayers – and rightfully so – since fundamental to maintaining a high quality of life is maintaining a strong financial base.

I pledged to them that I would work in unison with my fellow board members in implementing the pension and retiree medical liability reduction measures that have already lowered the retiree medical unfunded liability by well over \$800 million and accomplished significant annual reductions to our pension liability. To that end, I'm privileged to have Patti Gorczyca as my Chief of Staff. Ms. Gorczyca was one of the authors of this plan.

Also on the issue of public employee benefits, I'm committed to work with staff in developing equitable and affordable compensation packages that help us to continue to attract the best and brightest employees who are rewarded for quality performance.

As importantly, I have pledged to work for greater opportunity for public input on these financial decisions that the taxpayers are ultimately responsible for.

And last, but not least, the issue of protecting our coastal environment – one of Orange County's greatest assets – was a major discussion item during the campaign. There is no question that clean & safe beaches and clean & safe water are essential components in maintaining Orange County's quality of life. These issues affect both the public and economic health of our county. Therefore, I am committed to continuing, in partnership with Supervisor Moorlach, the Orange County Coastal Coalition. It was founded by my predecessor, Supervisor Tom Wilson, and has been extremely effective in bringing many environmental groups together to be a strong voice on issues affecting our coast, and as advocates at the state and federal level for resources necessary to develop programs that protect the fragile ocean environment. It is my hope that as the Coalition continues its work with our state and federal representatives we will be successful in securing more of a fair share of state and federal tax dollars for Orange County projects.

In closing, I want to thank you all for coming today. I look forward to the honor of serving you over the next four years and am inspired by seeing you here – as your participation ensures that Orange County will indeed have a government “of, by, and for the people”.

Thank You.