

## **Orange County Flood Control Act**

### **Water Code Appendix. § 36-2**

#### **§ 36-2. Objects and purposes; powers**

Sec. 2. (a) The purposes of this act are to provide for the control of the flood and storm waters of the district, and the flood and storm waters of streams that have their source outside of the district, but which flow into the district, and to conserve those waters for beneficial and useful purposes by spreading, storing, retaining, and causing them to percolate into the soil within the district, or outside the district, or to save or conserve in any manner all or any of those waters and protect from damage from those flood or storm waters, the harbors, waterways, public highways, and property in the district.

(b) The Orange County Flood Control District is hereby declared to be a body corporate and politic and has all of the following powers:

- (1) To have perpetual succession.
- (2) To sue and be sued in the name of the district in all actions and proceedings in all courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) To adopt a seal and alter it at pleasure.
- (4) To take by grant, purchase, gift, devise, or lease, and to hold, use, enjoy, and to sell, lease, exchange, or dispose of real or personal property of every kind, within or outside the district, necessary to the full exercise of its powers.
- (5) To acquire, or contract to acquire, lands, rights-of-way, easements, privileges and property of every kind, and to construct, maintain, and operate any and all works or improvements within or outside the district necessary or proper to carry out any of the objects or purposes of this act, and to complete, extend, add to, repair, or otherwise improve any works or improvements acquired by it as authorized in this act.
- (6) To exercise the right of eminent domain, either within or outside the district, to take any property necessary to carry out any of the objects or purposes of this act.
- (7) To incur indebtedness, and to issue bonds in the manner provided in this act.
- (8) To cause taxes or assessments to be levied and collected for the purpose of paying any obligation of the district in the manner provided in this act.
- (9) To make contracts, and to employ labor, and to do all acts necessary for the full exercise of the powers of the district, or any of the officers thereof, by this act.
- (10) To grant or otherwise convey to counties, cities and counties, cities, or towns, easements for street and highway purposes, over, along, in, through, across, or under any real property owned by

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the district.

(11) To remove, carry away, and dispose of any rubbish, trash, debris, or other inconvenient matter that may be dislodged, transported, conveyed, or carried by means of, through, in, or along the works and structures operated or maintained hereunder and deposited upon the property of the district or elsewhere.

(12) To sell or dispose of any property, or any interest therein, or lease or rent any property, or any interest therein, whenever, in the judgment of the board of supervisors, the property, or any interest therein or part thereof, is not required for the purposes of the district, or property may be leased, or included in community leases embracing adjoining lands, for any purpose, including leases for mining or extracting oil, gas, hydrocarbon substances, or other minerals, without interfering with the use of the property for the purposes of the district. If it appears that wells drilled upon private lands are draining or may drain oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances from lands owned by the district and operations for the production of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons on land owned by the district might interfere with the use of that land for the purposes of the district, the district may enter into agreements with the owners or operators of the wells for the payment of compensation to the district for drainage in lieu of drilling offset wells upon the land owned by the district, and to pay any compensation received into the general fund of the district and use the compensation for the purposes of this act. However, nothing in this section authorizes the board of supervisors, or other governing body of the district, or any officer thereof, to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any water, water right, reservoir space, or storage capacity, or any interest or space therein, except as provided by Section 17. The district may also grant to the United States of America, or any agency thereof authorized to accept and pay for land which lies within any channel, dam, or reservoir site, improved or constructed, in whole or in part, with federal funds, upon the payment to the district of the actual cost thereof as determined by the board of supervisors of the district. The district, by and through its board of supervisors, may warrant and guarantee the title of all lands so transferred to the United States under this section.

(13) Pursuant to paragraph (12), to lease or rent any property, or any interest therein or part thereof, if the board adopts a resolution that meets all of the following requirements, as applicable:

(A) Includes all of the following findings, based on evidence set forth in the minutes of the meeting:

(i) The property, or any interest therein or part thereof, is no longer or not yet needed for district uses and purposes, including, but not limited to, flood protection and water conservation, and the lease or rental use will not conflict with the uses and purposes of the district.

(ii) The lease or rental is consistent with the city or county general plan, specific plan, or other plans or policies adopted for the area within which the property is located, including any plans and regulations adopted pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 8400) of Part 2 of Division 5 of the Water Code.

(iii) The lease or rental is consistent with city or county zoning ordinances, regulations, and policies adopted for the area within which the property is located.

(iv) The lease or rental is consistent with the city or county building regulations and policies adopted for the area within which the property is located.

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(B) In the case of a rental, specifies the rental period and the approximate date on which the property will be needed for the uses and purposes of the district.

(C) For any property acquired by the district through eminent domain, declares that the property was acquired through eminent domain in accordance with Title 7 (commencing with Section 1230.010) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(14) To monitor, test, or inspect drainage, flood, storm, or other waters within the district for the purpose of recording, determining, and reporting the quality of the waters to appropriate regional water quality control boards.

(15) To assist the County of Orange and any city within the county in emergency operations to control or mitigate the effect of tides, waves, and ocean currents on the Orange County shoreline.

(16) To carry on technical and other investigations, examinations, or tests of all kinds, make measurements, collect data, and make analyses, studies, and inspections pertaining to water supply, control of floods, use of water, water quality, nuisance, pollution, waste, and contamination of water, both within and outside the district.

(17) To regulate, prohibit, or control the discharge of pollutants, waste, or any other material into the district's facilities by requiring dischargers to obtain a permit from the district prior to any discharge and by prohibiting the discharge of pollutants or other material which does or may cause a nuisance into the district's facilities without first obtaining a permit from the district, but, if a federal permit has been issued for the discharge, a permit may be issued by the district at no fee to the discharger; except as provided in this act, to require a fee to be collected prior to the issuance of a discharge permit, if the amount of the fee does not exceed the cost of issuing the permit; to require all permitholders to indemnify the district from any and all damages, penalties, or other expenses imposed on or required of the district by state or federal agencies due to any discharge by the permitholders into the district facilities.

(18) To establish compliance with any federal, state, or local law, order, regulation, or rule relating to water pollution or the discharge of pollutants, waste, or any other material into the district's facilities. For this purpose, any authorized representative of the district, upon presentation of his or her credentials or, if necessary under the circumstances, after obtaining an inspection warrant pursuant to Title 13 (commencing with Section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure, has the right of entry to any premises on which a water pollution, waste, or contamination source is located for the purpose of inspecting the source, including securing samples of discharges therefrom, or any records required to be maintained in connection therewith by federal, state, or local law, order, regulation, or rule.