
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Laura Nickerson, Chair
Stephanie Holstege, Vice Chair
Christine Casey
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Richard Hunn
Thomas Malson
Kayla Rabey
Eric Rivero-Montes
Mark White

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Folsom
City of Galt
City of Elk Grove

MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 2023, 6 p.m.

11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670

Zoom link provided for members of the public choosing to attend via zoom:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1608752767?pwd=cW9LaXFXLOZkaE95ZFFReURtTlh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 160 875 2767

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ITEM

- 1 Call to Order – Chair Nickerson
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary
Present: Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Christine Casey, Tom Malson, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark White
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment
*Members of the public have three minutes to comment on each separate item including any matter not on the posted agenda.
No public comment was made.
- 5 Regional Transportation Challenges- James Corless, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Director James Corless discussed SACOG's long range plan and challenges of the Sacramento Region. There is money available at the state and federal level for infrastructure for transportation from the gas tax, the bipartisan infrastructure law and inflation reeducation act. Currently, VMTs are up, transit ridership is down. The formula for allocating money to each state is highly complicated and reevaluated every six years. The gas tax does not cover the cost of transportation in CA.

The original Blueprint plan was adopted 20 years ago. The new plan is also called the Blueprint with a triple framework of equity, economy, and environment. Revitalizing existing developed land doesn't pencil out for developers so incentives need to be developed so that housing is built on existing urban footprints across the 6 adjacent counties. The Plan looks at growth assumptions across the region. In the next 20 years the projection predicts 278,000 units of housing will be needed.

There are many state and local mandates SACOG must meet. For example, proving a reduction in auto GHG by 19% by 2035. Strategies include employment areas near housing areas and affordable autonomous vehicle rentals to reduce VMTs. Average VMT is about 24 miles a day.

This 6-county region is the fastest growing region in CA per the 2020 census with 2.6 million population, projected to be 3.1 million by 2050.

The year 2040 travel model shows older towns such as Yuba City and Marysville having a smaller driving footprint because everything is within a 10-minute drive.

SACOG hopes to direct future housing areas to portions of the region where VMTs are already low to maintain low driving levels. This strategic housing effort is called Green Means Go. Counties look at these areas and are asked to shore up infrastructure so that developers can come in and develop housing. This strategy will aid in the effort to reduce GHGs by 2050. Thirty-four million has been awarded to some of these areas to work on sewer, water, and utility upgrades. Land Use and housing and are the beginning of solving transportation issues.

Bus Rapid Transit is a focus because its more affordable than rail. Dedicated bus lanes/toll lanes are a possibility if carpool lanes are converted to dedicated transit lanes and toll lanes.

One zero emission strategy is switch out Regional Transit's fleet which is already state mandated. Could hydrogen vehicles also be a part of the state mandate and not just EVs? Bikeshare contracts are coming to an end and will most likely be renewed with a company not yet determined. Sacramento region had 2nd most successful clean 2-wheeled vehicle mobility programs in the world.

SACOG has a Regional Plan to connect every region with class 1 bike trails and has an RFP out to accelerate the building process. There is a working group with neighboring counties to plan corridor rail travel improvements and service. SACOG prefers complete street redos to accomplish/solve bike lanes and safety issues all at the same time.

Measure A analysis done on planned projects not in SACOGS GHG reduction plans. SACOG developed a formal [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) to ensure that state mandated GHG reductions goals are on target while projects outside of SACOG planning are implemented.

Converting rails to trails is a huge economic boom but will also take support from all agencies as well as funding.

6 Lower American River Conservancy Program- Cara Allen, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program, Lower American River Conservancy Program

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is under the umbrella of the Department of Fish and Wildlife because they utilize their technology and resources. Funding is through the state general fund. The three main functions of WCB are land acquisition, habitat restoration and the development of wildlife oriented public access facilities.

In the last 75 years WCB had invested nearly 3.5 billion across 4,000 projects, protected 1.78 million acres of land and restored 970,000 acres of habitat. They currently have 545.5 M of unallocated funds to disperse for projects.

The Lower American River Conservation Program is a program of WCB. Funds are spent on the protection, enhancement and expansion of habitat, public access, education, and water quality. Projects funded so far include:

- Discovery Park Picnic Shelters, interpretive panels, and public access. Approximately 80% complete.
- Camp Pollock Site Improvements-expands public access and interpretation including 1 mile of ADA trail access.
- Blue Diamond Acquisition- 19 acres of property immediately adjacent to parkway. Completion of trails through this area.
- Cal Expo and Woodlake Crossing- planning for public access along culvert and stormwater channels.
- Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan- Sacramento State studies and surveys of site in advance of restoration.
- Natural Resources Management Plan- Sacramento County Regional Parks
- Where Are We On The Parkway- wayfinding and directional awareness signs including facilities at each destination, soon to be installed on Parkway.
- Lower Cordova Creek- analysis and design work to restore lower creek fish passage, channel stability and trail safety.
- American River Ranch Parking Lot Project at Soil Born Farms.
- American River Ranch Animal Program- livestock education and land management education.
- American Rive Ranch Habitat Restoration
- Effie Yeaw Center Facilities Improvements Planning Project

- 7 Recommendations Solicited by Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force Regarding Net Zero GHG Emissions and Adapting To Permanently Warmer Climate in Sacramento County.

Commissioners discussed this request and will submit their recommendations to the staff secretary to compile for review before sending.

- 8 Sacramento County Sustainability Update- John Lundgren, Sustainability Manager

Fleet Electrification Workshop from General Services at the September 14th meeting. Task Force conducting Technical Advisory Panels to outreach and receive community feedback regarding transportation GHG and adaptation.

- 9 Approve June 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the June minutes was made by and seconded by
Approve: Laura Nickerson, Christine Casey, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Tom Malson, Eric Rivero Montes
Noes: None
Abstain: Mark White
Motion does not pass and Approval of June minutes will carry forward to the September meeting.

- 10 EMD Director's Report- Jennea Monasterio, Director, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department

- 11 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

- 12 Commissioner Comments

- Awards Subcommittee Update
- Brown Act Requirements Regarding Written and Electronic Communication Among Commissioners

- 13 Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 pm. Next Meeting- September 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m. In-person at 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670. Zoom link provided for members of the public wishing to attend via zoom.

This meeting is being recorded in its entirety and will be available the following day. Agendas are posted in the offices of the City of Sacramento, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove, and the County of Sacramento and on the EMD Website at: emd.saccounty.gov. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.