
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

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, June 20, 2022 6 p.m.

Meeting held via Zoom only.

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ITEM

- 1 Call to Order – Chair White
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Mark White, Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero-Montes, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Stephanie Holstege and Kayla Rabey
A quorum is reached.

- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment
*Speakers will have three minutes for each separate item including any matter not on the posted agenda.
- 5 Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District Update- Gary Goodman, Executive Director

The 1915 Mosquito Abatement Act is incorporated into the CA Health and Safety Code. Mosquitoes pose a threat to California's economic development and the health and wellbeing of the public. Many mosquitos carry diseases such as: West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Chikungunya, Zika Virus, Dog Heartworm. These are serious neuro invasive diseases with long term effects so eradicating mosquitos is essential to public health. The Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District provides safe, effective and economical mosquito and vector control by the surveillance of mosquitos and vectors to determine the threat of disease transmission while also lowering annoyance levels. They work closely with CDPH and UC Davis. When the District was initially formed, Malaria was the biggest public health threat but it is now West Nile Virus.

Sacramento has approximately 1.4 million residents and Yolo has approximately 300,000 residents; meaning, urban centers are adjacent to agriculture and wetlands. In California, there are 53 species of mosquitoes, 24 of those species in the Sacramento region. Not every species transmits disease. They have varying habitats and prefer different blood sources. Only the females bite while the males feed on nectar. Mosquitoes have 4 developmental stages, the immature stage requiring stagnant water. That is why the District focuses on public education and outreach for the need to reduce stagnant and untreated water sources such as storm drains, untreated pools, stagnant water features in the garden, empty plant pots, dog water bowls, and tires that have collected water. Preventing larvae from hatching is a highly effective mosquito control method. The length of time from egg to adult can vary from 3-21 days depending on species. The aggressive Aedes species takes 3-5 days from egg to adult. Water temperature and weather are important factors in the life cycle timing. Aedes prefer to bite humans. This species is nonnative to California and traveled into California from Asia and Mexico. They are difficult to control once established as are most invasive species. The Anopheles species transmit malaria.

The District has an integrated Mosquito management approach which includes: public outreach, school education, surveillance, biological control, ecological management and chemical control as a last resort. District personnel set and check traps every day to track disease and species types in rice fields, water conveyance systems, water in vegetation areas and urban catch basins. They also have a fish breeding hatchery program and plant thousands of pounds of mosquito eating fish in Sacramento waters each season. Fish planting is an example of biological control. The District will also assist with ecological control on farmland. They have provided assistance with heavy equipment and labor to the Cosumnes River Preserve, CDFW, and US Fish and Wildlife to mitigate breeding grounds. Chemical Control is used when adult stage mosquitos are found to be carrying disease. The District is investigating using drones more often in the field to apply pesticides and increase efficiency.

The District also uses chickens as a sentinel for WNV because they can carry it without getting sick. If a chicken tests positive for WNV then the District knows to focus on control measures in that area. Tick surveillance testing for Limes disease is a large part of disease control. Traps are set heavily in areas where a diseased bird or mosquito has been found.

WNV is under-reported because symptoms present the same as the flu. In 2016, 442 human cases were reported, in 2020 only 231 were reported. The number of actual cases could conceivably be 30-70% percent higher than reported.

The invasive *Aedes Aegypti* was found 2019 in Citrus Heights and in 2020 a large population was found in Arden Arcade and Winters. They only fly about 100 yards which means they are being transported into the area on people, soil or, in cars. They are originally thought to have come to California on bamboo plants that were shipped here from other continents.

The District encourage residents to take an active part in removing standing water. Traps are inspected frequently to count mosquito samples. Trucks spray larvicide treatments at night to get material into back yards which is effective in reducing disease carriers below detection level.

The district performs disease testing in their own state of the art lab. Innovative control methods are being researched and used such as insect sterilization. This technique has been used by the USDA for medfly and fruit fly population reduction. Male mosquitoes are sterilized by either Wolbachia method, which introduces a sterilizing bacteria to the male insect, or by irradiation or gene modification. The mosquitos are then released into neighborhoods where invasive species are present. They mate with the female but there are no offspring, resulting in a significant decline in mosquito populations. In Fresno, a 3 year pilot project reduced invasive species by 95%. Sterilization methods reduce mosquito population without using pesticides.

The District has done some collaborative research projects with UC Davis. One project involved analyzing the presence of District applied pesticides in sediments and soils in organic rice fields. The study showed only trace organic residues which confirmed that there is no buildup of contaminant when adult vector control products are used.

There are resistance issues with the *Culex pipiens* species in suburban areas. Homeowners use pesticides and over water lawns and the run off enters storm drains. Mosquitos can build up resistance to the pesticides. To determine if this is the case the District does bottle bioassays from the same basins being sampled for residue testing which resulted in confirmation of resistance.

6 Sustainability Program and Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force Update-- John Lundgren, Sustainability Manager

John Lundgren reported that there will be 27 interviews to fill the 13 vacancies on the Climate Task Force. The requested budget for FY 2021-22 of \$100,000.00 has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

In the upcoming year he expects there will be increased discussion around the topic of climate change by Sacramento County's Leadership Team as strategies to reduce GHG emissions by each department are implemented.

John Lundgren recognized the fact that members of the public that oppose the CAP in its current draft form fear that it will streamline sprawling development, thus not reducing GHG's and reducing green space.

7 Approve April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 25, 2022 draft meeting Minutes was made by Laura Nickerson, seconded by Eric Rivero Montes.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Stephanie Holstege, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Kayla Rabey.

Abstentions: Mark White

Noes: None

Motion passed.

8 Approve May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve May 16, 2022 draft Minutes made by Tom Malson, seconded by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Dr. Anthony De Riggi, Stephanie Holstege, Kayla Rabey

Motion passed.

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

Discussion regarding updating the SEC webpages took place. A subcommittee to review updating links and graphics was formed including: Laura Nickerson, Stephanie Holstege, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes.

10 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Richard Hunn reported that on May 14th, West Sacramento and the City of Sacramento certified the EIR for the new bridge that will span the river and connect River Road with Broadway. They approved the design concept as well.

The City of Sacramento water committee proposed to sell 10,000 acre feet of water to Southern California for a significant price. With the reduction in water use due to the drought and reduced fees collected, this would enhance the City's utility income.

11 Commissioner Comments

Mark White informed the commission he will not be able to attend the July 18th meeting.

12 Next Meeting- July 18, 2022 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

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 also on the EMD Website at: emd.saccounty.gov. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.