

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – September 26, 2005**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, William Gibson, Whitnie Henderson, Sharon Merker, Marjorie Namba, Val Siebal, and Frederick Tornatore.

Commission members absent: Mike Fallon.

Commission Staff: Mel Knight, Director, Environmental Management Department (EMD) and Linda Jimenez, SEC Executive Secretary.

Other Guests: Roland Pang, Superintendent, Department of Utilities, City of Sacramento; Scott Myers and Cort Abney, the H2O Group; John Ornellas, Operations Manager, Elk Grove Water Service; Johnnie Foster Downs, Director, Local Government Affairs, California Restaurant Association; Tim James, Manager, Local Government Relations, California Grocers Association; and Pat Quinn, Program Manager, Sacramento County Department of Waste Management and Recycling.

The meeting was called to order by **SEC Chair Frederick Tornatore** at 6:07 p.m. Attendance list and sign in sheet were distributed.

1. **Public Comment** – **Chair Tornatore** read a statement relative to audiotaping of the meeting and posting of agendas. He then opened the meeting to members of the audience.
2. **Consent Item** – **Minutes** – It was **moved (Siebal)**, **seconded (Namba)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2005 meeting as presented.
3. **Consent Item** – **Minutes** – It was **moved (Siebal)**, **seconded (Namba)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2005 meeting as presented.
4. **Commission Member Appointment** – **Chair Tornatore** advised members that **Commissioner Fallon** has been reappointed to membership on the Commission and members received an updated Membership Roster.
5. **Drinking Water Regulations for Disinfection By-Products and Arsenic**
 - A. **City of Sacramento** – **Chair Tornatore** called upon **Commissioner Clark** who introduced **Roland Pang**, Superintendent, Department of Utilities, City of Sacramento. **Mr. Pang** provided information on the filtration systems currently in use at the Fairbairn and Sacramento River Waste Treatment Plants. He then noted upcoming regulations relative to enhanced surface water treatment, disinfection by-products, cryptosporidium and arsenic regulatory levels and shared information on the City's progress toward meeting the regulations.
 - B. **Elk Grove Water Service** – **Chair Tornatore** called upon **Commissioner Namba** who introduced **Cort Adney** of the H2O Group who provided information on arsenic removal from the Elk Grove Water Service. **Mr. Adney** noted that because ten out of the twelve existing wells which were in service

would not meet the pending standard, action was taken to design and construct a new central filtration facility. What is called the Railroad Water Treatment Plant began operations in June 2005. The Plant consists of four deep wells with 4.0 million gallons of storage. **Mr. Adney** noted that arsenic is basically non-detect in the deep wells.

Mr. Adney then introduced **Scott Myers** of the H2O Group who provided information on the water treatment study and Elk Grove's goals and objectives. **Mr. Myers** also shared information on the testing protocol and pilot study. **Mr. Myers** expressed the opinion that the ultimate solution is to move away from shallow wells. Members were advised that the constituents of Elk Grove will not experience any additional costs to meet the new regulations because of the new plant construction. Water rates were increased by 80% in 2000-2001 to offset the cost of the new construction; no additional rate increases are expected until 2007.

6. **Proposed Food Safety Program Enhancements** – **Chair Tornatore** called upon **Director Mel Knight** who introduced Johnnise Foster Downs of the California Restaurant Association and Tim James of the California Grocers Association.

Director Knight then provided background on the Food Program and the implementation of Phase I of the Food Enhancements approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2003. **Director Knight** noted that foodborne illnesses in Sacramento County are down and that the Department is now prepared to make staff recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for Phase II of the Food Safety Enhancements.

Members were advised that Phase II of the Proposed Food Safety Enhancements includes: (A) Posting of color-coded placards for disclosure of inspection results; (B) Increase in inspection frequencies for food preparation facilities and packaged food facilities; (C) Outreach and education; (D) Consistency in inspections; (E) Enforcement; and (F) Website posting.

Director Knight noted that staff is currently reviewing criteria utilized by Los Angeles County relative to their letter grades. He also noted that the Department continues to work closely with Toronto (Canada) during this development period. **Director Knight** then requested support for Phase II of the Proposed Food Safety Program Enhancements.

Chair Tornatore called upon **Johnnise Foster Downs**, California Restaurant Association (CRA), who asked to be heard relative to the item. **Ms. Downs** expressed appreciation to the Department for continuing to include the industry in the development process and for considering industry concerns. Members were advised that CRA is not taking a position on the Phase II Enhancements. **Ms. Downs** noted that there are still some grey areas which they feel need to be addressed and they look forward to continued discussions.

Chair Tornatore called upon **Tim James**, California Grocers Association (CGA), who also requested to speak to the item. **Mr. James** expressed appreciation to the Department for involving them in the development of the Phase II Food Safety Program Enhancements. He then noted that the Grocers Association sees the proposal as a project in development. He noted that the CGA is not currently taking a position on the Proposed Enhancements and is encouraging staff to continue the process.

After some discussion, it was **moved (Henderson)**, **seconded (Clark)**, and **carried** to support Phase II of the Proposed Food Safety Program Enhancements in concept and to suggest that EMD continue to work with industry and the public.

Members of the SEC expressed appreciation to EMD for their work thus far on Phase II of the Enhancements.

7. **Appointment of 2005 Environmental Excellence Awards Chair** – **Chair Tornatore** requested nominations for the position of 2005 Environmental Excellence Awards Chair. It was the consensus of the Commission to appoint **Commissioner Namba** to serve as 2005 Awards Chair.

Commissioner Merker expressed interest and was invited to serve on the Awards Committee. **Vice Chair Fallon** will be invited to continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee.

8. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report** – **Director Knight** announced the promotion of **Secretary Jimenez** to Administrative Services Officer I of the Department and noted that Secretary Jimenez will continue to serve the Commission until a replacement is hired. **Director Knight** then shared information relative to the ongoing process of securing a new building to house the Department.

Director Knight also provided information on West Nile Virus in Sacramento County.

In answer to a question on the outcome of the Needle Distribution Program proposed by Dr. Trochet and presented to the Board of Supervisors, members were advised that Dr. Trochet was directed to speak with the cities.

9. **2005 Environmental Health Report – Environmental Indicators** – **Chair Tornatore** called upon **Commissioner Henderson** who distributed a revised Report timeline and expressed appreciation to those Commissioners who had already provided information for inclusion in the Report.

It was the consensus of the members present to add the item to the January 2006 meeting Agenda in order to provide information to the public.

10. **Environmental News Review** – In the absence of **Vice Chair Fallon**, **Chair Tornatore** reviewed the news articles which had been distributed, including: (1) “New Orleans flooding ‘wake-up call’ for capital”; (2) “Katrina’s lasting storm...”; and (3) “Water district sees shortages”.

Commissioner Gibson also shared information on a article titled, “McClellan Groundwater Decision Deferred” and requested that the article be disseminated with the meeting minutes.

11. **SWA Green Waste Facility** – **Chair Tornatore** called upon **Pat Quinn**, Program Manager, Sacramento County Department of Waste Management and Recycling who provided an update on the SWA Green Waste Facility. During his update, **Mr. Quinn** noted that the SWA Board has accepted the list of four sites recommended by the Project Advisory Committee. The Board is now looking at four technology methods and is hoping to have the draft Environmental Impact Report available in nine months.

Mr. Quinn posed the following questions: (1) Who they should talk to, and (2) CEQA/EIR scoping issues and sought Commission assistance.

Members suggested placing the Green Waste Facility item on the Agenda of an upcoming televised meeting as well as contacting KVIE 6 relative to their California Green program.

Commissioner Gibson reviewed a document detailing the issues to be considered during the Environmental Review process and requested that the document be distributed to members of the Commission.

12. **2005 Meeting Topics/Teams** – **Chair Tornatore** and members of the Commission reviewed the meeting topics/teams for the remainder of 2005 and discussed possible topics for 2006. **Secretary Jimenez** was asked to add the 2006 Meeting Topics/Teams item to the October and November meeting Agendas.

It was the consensus of the Commission to cancel future Commission meetings if it is determined that there will not be a quorum. Members agreed to advise the Commission Secretary at least 24 hours in advance if they are not able to attend a meeting. Secretary Jimenez will forward a reminder with future meeting Agendas.

A member of the Commission requested that items on future SEC Agendas be held to a number that can be reviewed in a reasonable amount of time.

13. **Correspondence** – **Secretary Jimenez** noted that no correspondence had been received.

14. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the SEC will be held October 24, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Historic Hearing Room, Sacramento City Hall, 915 I Street, 2nd^t Floor, Sacramento, California.
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