

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – April 17, 2006**

Commission Members Present: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, William Gibson, Sharon Merker, Marjorie Namba, Val Siebal and Frederick Tornatore.

Commission Members Absent: None.

Commission Staff: Mel Knight, Director, Environmental Management Department (EMD), Karen Nelson, SEC Executive Secretary.

Other Guests: Glennah Trochet, M.D., Sacramento County Health Officer; David Brown, Manager, Sacramento - Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District; Mr. and Mrs. Steven Zien, President Living Resources Company; Edward Winkler and Lisa Maddaus, Regional Water Authority; Colleen Koscki and Peggy Symonik, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento; Craig Sheehy, Thomas Properties Group; Diana Proctor and Gloria Moore, CalPERS Lincoln Plaza; Thomas, Betty and David Dwelle, Nella Oil Company; and David Mark, SMUD.

The meeting was called to order by **SEC Chair Mike Fallon** at 6:30 p.m. Attendance list and sign in sheet were distributed.

Secretary Nelson requested agenda items 4 and 5 be heard in reverse order.

1. **Public Comment - Chair Fallon** read a statement regarding videotaping of the meeting and posting of agendas. He then opened the meeting to members of the audience.
2. **Consent Item - Minutes** - It was **moved Tornatore, seconded Namba and carried** to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2006 meeting as presented.
3. **Presentation to Whitnie Henderson, Departing Commissioner - Director Knight** noted that Whitnie Henderson was unable to attend the meeting. He expressed appreciation for her work with the SEC and gave her plaque of appreciation to **Commissioner Clark**. **Commissioner Clark** read remarks prepared by Ms. Henderson who thanked the Commission for the privilege of being a member of the SEC for three years.
4. **Presentation of Environmental Excellence Awards - Director Knight** provided information on the Environmental Recognition Awards program and invited the recipients to share information about their companies. **Awards Chair Namba and Vice Awards Chair Fallon** presented each recipient with an engraved plaque. **Director Knight** informed the winners that they would also be presented with the plaque during an upcoming meeting of their City Council or at the County Board of Supervisors' Chambers.

<p><u>Action Item:</u> Staff to secure date with various City Councils and the County Board of Supervisors for presentation of awards. Commission members to be informed of the dates.</p>

Awards for “Providing Leadership Toward the Protection and Enhancement of the Environment in the Greater Sacramento Community” were presented to the Living Resources Company, Nella Oil Company, Regional Water Authority, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, and the Thomas Properties Group.

An award for “Voluntarily Exceeding Environmental Regulatory Requirements” was presented to CalPERS Lincoln Plaza.

5. **West Nile Virus Update** - Dr. Trochet’s presentation provided information on the West Nile virus (WNV). This disease is transmitted to humans, birds, horses, and other animals, by infected mosquitoes. It is well established in Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Mosquitoes get the disease from infected birds and can transmit it when they bite others. WNV can cause encephalitis in humans. Most infections are mild, with flu-like symptoms.

Recently a dead hawk in Sacramento County tested positively for WNV. It is unclear whether the bird had contracted the disease recently or during last year’s West Nile season.

She noted that all residents of areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of getting WNV; persons over 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease. It was recently found that diabetes is an independent risk factor for the severe diseases caused by WNV. The severe diseases include a polio-like syndrome that causes paralysis and encephalitis. The reasons for this are currently not known.

Members were provided with a handout which explained the County response to WNV – Human Cases:

- Heightened surveillance
- Public information
- Provider of medical information
- Mosquito control

Dave Brown, manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD), reported that the heavy rains the Sacramento region experienced could bring huge numbers of mosquitoes and higher risk of the WNV. One bucket of water which stands for seven days can produce 1,000 mosquitoes.

Mr. Brown reported that the SYMVCD is working hard to reduce mosquito populations using integrated pest management techniques. The decision to use “fogging” would be a last resort, but will be used if other methods fail to lessen the mosquito population.

There are three ways you can help reduce your risk of becoming sick:

- Avoid mosquito bites

- Mosquito-proof your home
- Help the community by reporting dead birds

Mosquito and West Nile Virus Awareness week is April 24-29. For more information, log on to www.fightthebite.net.

Commissioner Siebal, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Board member, requested assistance from Dr. Trochet in preparing a letter from the Commission to various associations mentioning that it has recently been found that diabetics are more sensitive to the WNV than non-diabetics. Dr. Trochet offered her assistance and it was the consensus of the Commission that **Commissioner Siebal** prepare the informational letter for distribution.

Action item: Staff to mail informational letter about WNV to various foundations and associations. It is to include attachments from Dr. Trochet's office.

6. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report** - Members received a copy of the April 2006 *EMD Update*. **Director Knight** shared information on the following topics: (1) Continued public and media interest in food safety initiatives; (2) June Livingston, EMD's Communications and Media Officer, has been involved with staff recruitment efforts at local universities; (3) Staff participated in an agroterrorism workshop and homeland security exercise.
7. **2005 Environmental Health Report - Environmental Indicators - Commissioner Clark** requested that this agenda item be delayed until the May 22 meeting.
8. **Environmental News Review - Vice Chair Siebal** will provide news articles at the next meeting.
9. **2006 Meeting Topics/Teams - Chair Fallon** and the members of the Commission confirmed the agenda topics for May, June and July.
10. **Correspondence - Secretary Nelson** shared a correspondence from Ruci Katia from the City of Sacramento. Application process to fill Whitney Henderson's seat is open from 4/19-5/19.
11. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held May 22, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Suite 204, Sacramento, California.