

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – August 28, 2006**

Commission Members Present: William Gibson, Shane Jiang, Sharon Merker, Val Siebal, and Frederick Tornatore.

Commission Members Absent: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, and Marjorie Namba.

Commission Staff: Dennis Green, Chief Hazardous Materials Division, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department, Karen Nelson, SEC Executive Secretary.

Other Guests: Glennah Trochet, M.D., Health Officer, County of Sacramento, Ken Murai, Principal Engineer/Architect Sacramento County Environmental Management Department.

The meeting was called to order by **SEC Vice Chair Siebal** at 6:00 p.m. Attendance list and sign in sheet were distributed.

1. **Public Comment - Vice Chair Siebal** 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 Merker, seconded Gibson and carried** to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2006 meeting as presented.
3. **Status Update on New EMD Building - Ken Murai, Principal Engineer/Architect, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) - Vice Chair Siebal** called upon **Ken Murai** who provided information on the new building which will be located at Mather on three acres of land. The building will be 40,000 + square feet and will be able to accommodate approximately 200 staff by 2016. Construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2007 and occupancy scheduled for mid-2008. Once construction has been completed it is intended for the County to have an option to buy the building in the future.

The EMD project team is working on getting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification for the building. LEED Green Building Rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

A rendering of the building will be presented to the Board of Supervisors later this year.

4. **Update on West Nile Virus and Pandemic Flu Planning - Glennah Trochet, M.D., Health Officer, County of Sacramento - Vice Chair Siebal** called upon Dr. Trochet who explained the differences in types of influenza viruses: seasonal flu, pandemic flu and Avian (bird) flu. Health experts and governments around the world are worried that the flu virus H4N1 affecting

birds could acquire the ability to be transmitted from human to human. If this happens it will spark the outbreak of a human pandemic influenza. Humans have no immunity to the virus and there is no vaccine. A vaccination has been developed and is available for horses.

As of March 6, 2005 Sacramento County reported 177 cases of West Nile Virus; as of August 24, 2006 only 7 cases had been reported.

Some things you can do to prepare for a pandemic:

- Stay informed, visit web sites such as www.pandemicflu.gov.
- Have a plan if you and your family must remain at home for several weeks.
- Keep a list of emergency services numbers handy.
- Add to your current emergency supplies kit.
- Take care of your health.
- Have a plan for work and school.
- Be prepared to take care of someone who is sick at home.

5. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report** - Members received a copy of the August 2006 *EMD Update*. EMD's Hazardous Materials Division **Chief Green** shared information on the following topics: (1) A total of 600 award winners have been identified for Food Safety Awards of Excellence. Approximately 50 of the winners will be recognized during the September 12th Board of Supervisors meeting; (2) September is Food Safety month and the Board will also pass a resolution to that effect at the September 12th meeting; (3) EMD recently completed an audit of the Local Oversight Program by the State Water Resources Control Board and the auditors noted no findings; (4) State Department of Health Services audit of EMD small water system's program also found no significant findings; and (5) EPM I Elise Rothschild was a featured speaker at a statewide workshop that discussed the implementation of AB 1078, the Methamphetamine Contaminated Property Cleanup Act of 2005. EMD will continue to take a lead role to assist other jurisdictions in the implementation of this new law.
6. **2005 Environmental Health Report - Environmental Indicators** - In the absence of **Commissioner Clark, Vice Chair Siebal** postponed this item to the September meeting.
7. **Environmental News Review** - **Vice Chair Siebal** who presented the following articles to the Commission: (1) *San Francisco Chronicle* article, "Beige boxes going green, new EPA program which rates computers on environment impact"; (2) *San Francisco Chronicle* article, "Scientists split on heat wave cause some think culprit is global warming, but jury is still out"; (3) *Washington Post* article, "Steel, auto industries to remove mercury"; (4) *The*

Sacramento Bee article, “No fuming over fuel change”; and (5) *The Sacramento Bee* article, “Still awash in doubt Delta residents fear storms - and now climate change, too”.

8. **2006 Meeting Topics/Teams** - **Vice Chair Siebal** and the members of the Commission confirmed the agenda topics for November.

Commissioner Merker announced her resignation from the Commission. She has been hired by EMD and will begin working as an Environmental Compliance Technician in mid-September.

Action Item: Secretary Nelson to provide members with the 2007 Meeting Topics handout at September meeting.
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9. **Correspondence** - **Chief Green** shared correspondence from Dr. Lum requesting time on the November agenda for Luther Burbank students to make a presentation on lead. It was agreed to invite the students to the meeting.

Action Item: Commissioner Tornatore will invite Dr. Lum and Luther Burbank students to participate at the November meeting.
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10. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held September 25, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Suite 204, Sacramento, California.