

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)  
Minutes – February 26, 2007**

**Commission members present:** Panama Bartholomy, Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, Marjorie Namba, and Frederick Tornatore.

**Commission members absent:** Shane Jiang and Marjorie Namba.

**Commission Staff:** Val Siebal, Director, Environmental Management Department (EMD) and Karen Nelson, Executive Secretary.

**Other Guests:** Cecilia Jensen, Chief, Water Protection Division, Dennis Green, Chief, Hazardous Materials Division, and John Rogers, Chief, Environmental Health Division.

The meeting was called to order by **SEC Chair Mike Fallon** at 6:08 p.m. Attendance list and sign in sheet were distributed.

1. **Public Comment** - **Chair Fallon Chair Fallon** 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 (Bailey), seconded (Tornatore)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2006 and January 29, 2007 meetings as presented.

**Update from Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and Air Quality Fire Place Rule** - **Chair Fallon** introduced Karen Wilson who handed out information on the fireplace change out and the incentive program AQMD is sponsoring to encourage homeowners to replace older, more polluting units with cleaner-burning, EPA-certified units.

There are two components to the change out program. The first component will be in the form of vouchers to replace an existing dirty wood burning appliance with a cleaner appliance. Secondly, funding is being reserved for a future low income assistance program still under development.

Ms. Wilson shared that wood smoke generated from residential wood burning is a common source of particulate matter, and other toxic air contaminants. The AQMD is designated as a nonattainment area for state and federal PM10 standards and for the state PM2.5 standard, and the state and federal ozone standards. The 2004 emission inventory for Sacramento County shows that wood smoke accounts for 20% of wintertime PM10 emissions and 44% of wintertime PM2.5 emissions.

Reducing wood burning will result in improvements in wintertime particulate matter levels and ozone levels in May and September. New certified wood burning appliances emit about 85% less particulate than older uncertified appliances.

Ms. Young noted that from January continuing through May, Sacramento County residents can apply for discounts of \$75 to \$500 on the purchase and installation of cleaner-burning fireplace inserts or heating stoves.

3. **Environmental Management Department (EMD) 5-Year Fee Proposal** - **Director Siebal** introduced **Chief Cecilia Jensen, Chief Dennis Green** and Chief **John Rogers**. **Director Siebal** informed the Commission that EMD's Five-year Fee Ordinance Proposal goes before the Board of Supervisors at 11:30 a.m on April 3, 2007. In preparation for the new proposed fee structure, EMD worked with Wohlford Consulting, the Auditor/Controller's office, County Counsel, and the regulated industry participants to develop a fee proposal that appropriately recovers the cost of providing services.

**Director Siebal** discussed the factors contributing to increased program costs: labor agreement, anticipated increased building lease costs, increased regulatory requirements, enhanced program services, and refined workload time estimates.

The fee proposal provides for full cost recovery immediately or over a five-year period.

**Chief Jensen**, Water Protection, noted that the bulk of the water program fees will experience fee increases up to 8%. In other fee categories there will be fee increases above 8% due to several factors: the elimination of State grant funding, increased State requirements, and the results of the 2006 State Audit.

Hazardous Materials **Chief Green** reported that given the recent 8% increase in staff salaries, and upon approval of the Fee Ordinance Proposal, most facilities regulated in these programs will experience fee increases of up to 8%. He identified factors contributing to increased program cost. A review of EMD's Enforcement Revenue Rebate program was also covered detailing the distribution of \$400,000 of rebates to compliant Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) facilities over the past two years.

The approximately 47 facilities regulated under the California Accidental Release Prevention Programs (Cal-ARP) are entering into the third year of a five-year fee stabilization schedule approved by the board in April 2005.

**Chief Rogers**, Environmental Health, gave an update on the Green-Yellow-Red Placard Program, an overview of the proposed Five-year Fee Ordinance and a list of factors that contributed to fee increases. He also noted that proposed fee increases will range from 10-20% in each fee category, and annual increases during the five-year period will not exceed 20% for any given category.

**Director Siebal** noted that he is working on identifying areas for improvement in the three major divisions so the Department can become more efficient and improve processes and products.

He asked the Commission to support the proposed EMD Fee Ordinance Proposal for fiscal years 2007-2012 and send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors.

It was **moved (Bailey)**, **seconded (Clark)** and **carried** that a letter of support for the EMD Five-year Fee Ordinance Proposal for Fiscal Years 2007-2012 be prepared and forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors.

4. **Strategic Planning** - Subcommittee members **Bartholomy**, **Fallon** and **Namba** and **Director Siebal** met to re-draft the SEC mission statement and draft a strategic plan. Their draft was shared with the Commission and **Chair Fallon** asked everyone to add their comments to the draft and email it to him by March 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Election of 2007 SEC Chair** - **Commissioner Clark** asked **Chair Fallon** if he would continue as Chair through 2007. He agreed and will be nominated during the March meeting.
6. **Election of 2007 SEC Vice Chair** - **Chair Fallon** opened the floor for nominations for the position of 2007 SEC Vice Chair. It was **moved (Bailey)**, seconded (**Tornatore**), and carried to approve **Krista Clark** as the 2007 Commission Vice Chair.
7. **Update on Environmental Excellence Awards** - **Chair Fallon** called upon **Director Siebal** who noted that eight nominations had been received. He asked the Commissioners to rate the candidates and e-mail the results to **Secretary Nelson**. There was discussion on the criteria used in voting for the award nominees. After discussion it was determined that there was no benchmark used to judge the applicants. Members would like to have **Commissioner Namba** provide a rating system on future applications. **Commissioner Bartholomy** requested that EMD review the nominees for any outstanding environmental violations.
8. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report** - Members received a copy of the February *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** shared information on EMD's Pandemic Flu Committee.
9. **Environmental News Review** - **Director Siebal** will provide news articles at the next meeting.
10. **2005 Meeting Topics/Teams** - **Chair Fallon** and the members of the Commission engaged in a discussion of potential meeting topics. **Director Siebal** was asked to gather EMD topics from his staff and to talk to Dr. Trochet about items she would like to present to the Commission. **Commissioner Bartholomy** suggested a large meeting in July regarding Sacramento's changing climate. He and **Commissioner Tornatore** will work on securing speakers.

11. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** noted that no correspondence had been received.
12. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.