

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – April 30, 2007**

Commission members present: Bob Bailey, Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, Frederick Tornatore and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, and Marjorie Namba.

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

Other Guests: Surinder Singh and Dave Defanti, Planning & Community Development Department, County of Sacramento; Jim McDonald, AICP, Senior Planner, City of Sacramento; Paul Junker, Planning Director, City of Rancho Cordova, Matt Carpenter, Senior Planner, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Terry Maxwell, Monica Newhouse, Duane O'Donnell, Beverly and Jack Sales, Rachele Burton, Laurie Brajkovich, Gary Ushijima, Deanna Eastman, Becky Williams, Anthony Albro, and Tom Huffman.

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

1. **Public Comment** - **Chair Fallon** read a statement relative to videotaping of the meeting and posting of agendas. He then opened the meeting to members of the audience.

Two member of the audience, **Terry Maxwell** and **Jack Sales**, spoke on the ecological consequences of artificial night lighting. They would like to see this topic incorporated into the General Plan Updates currently being crafted in Sacramento County, Sacramento City and the City of Rancho Cordova.

2. **Consent Item** - **Minutes** - It was **moved Bailey**, **seconded Clark** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Presentation of Environmental Excellence Awards** - **Director Siebal** provided information on the Environmental Recognition Awards program and invited the recipients to share information about their companies. **Chair Fallon** presented each recipient with an engraved plaque. **Director Siebal** 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.
4. **General Plan Update**
 - A. **Matt Carpenter**, Senior Planner, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), shared information on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP is a 28-year plan for transportation improvements in the six-county region based on projections for growth in population, housing and jobs.

SACOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for developing the state and federally required MTP every three years in coordination with the 22 cities and six counties in the greater Sacramento region.

Mr. Carpenter's presentation "Preliminary Draft MTP 2035" concentrated on finding new transportation options so people can consider alternatives to driving alone, as

well as to reduce congestion at key points. This is the first long-range transportation plan based on blueprint land uses. By the year 2035 MTP expects the Sacramento region will grow with more compact development that has more mixed uses of residential and commercial land use. This will allow people to travel less distances to shop, attend school and work.

The preliminary budget is \$41 Billion, which will be spent over a 28-year period.

B. Surinder Singh, Senior Planner and **Dave Defanti**, Planner III, Planning & Community Development Department, County of Sacramento presented a brief overview of the Sacramento County General Plan 2030. The County's General Plan is undergoing its first comprehensive update since it was adopted in 1993. This update is necessary to plan for growth in the next planning cycle (2005-2030) as well as to address new emerging planning issues.

Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Department has just concluded a series of ten public workshops that were held to discuss the County's General Plan Update, with a specific focus on new growth anticipated by 2030.

The Economic Development Element in the plan provides the County with the opportunity to ensure quality of life, job growth that maintains pace with housing prices and adequate levels of public services.

The strategic objectives of the Economic Development Element are:

- Intensity business attraction, retention and development
- Redevelopment of Mather and McClellan
- Increase sports attraction and tourism,
- Act as a catalyst for commercial corridor redevelopment
- Attract key regional sales tax generators

Members of the Commission asked if the County would include the light pollution issue in their Environmental Impact Report. **Mr. Singh** noted that this issue is going to be discussed during the May 30th meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

C. Paul Junker, Planning Director, City of Rancho Cordova, presented the Commission members with a copy of his presentation, "Rancho Cordova General Plan and Update on City Efforts". He informed the members that after a two-year process of meetings and workshops, Rancho Cordova, on June 26, 2006, adopted its first General Plan.

Mr. Junker continued by giving an update on the General Plan, Folsom Boulevard revitalization, current and pending development projects under review and the Strong Neighborhood initiative, the project that has helped revitalize existing Rancho Cordova.

Mr. Junker noted that Rancho Cordova intends on being a city and not a suburb. To help achieve this, the General Plan Update will address the following:

- Intensify Folsom Boulevard land uses
- Creation of urban centers
- Increasing housing density
- Focusing on mixed land uses
- Expanding employment and commercial uses

D. Jim McDonald, AICP, Senior Planner gave an overview of the City of Sacramento's effort to update the General Plan through the period of 2030. The update is needed because the last comprehensive update was completed in 1988, and covered a period through 2006. The current plan has outdated information, assumptions, projections and policies.

In 2004 the City began a lengthy process of collecting data from numerous community meetings. The public identified issues that needed to be addressed in the General Plan Update.

The City has identified the following list of objectives for the General Plan Update:

- Incorporate the current City Council's vision and smart growth policy direction for Sacramento's long-term future into the scope of the General Plan.
- Update forecasts for the planning timeframe through 2030.
- Revise Levels of Service standards and Environmental Impact Report Thresholds of Significance in infill and selected new growth areas to reflect existing conditions.
- Streamline project-level California Environmental Quality Act reviews through the design and implementation of a program that updates critical environmental data in specified areas of the City.
- Incorporate the Community Plans as chapters into the General Plan.
- Reevaluate land uses within Areas of Opportunity for Reuse.

Commissioner White noted the professionalism and depth of knowledge of the presenters. **Chair Fallon** thanked the presenters for their thorough update.

5. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** noted that correspondence from Terry Maxwell had been received.
6. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held May 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.