

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – May 21, 2007**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Panama Bartholomy, Mike Fallon, Shane Jiang and Frederick Tornatore.

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

Other Guests: Cecilia Jensen, Chief, Water Protection Division, and Cheryl Hawkins, Environmental Specialist, Water Protection Division, EMD.

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

1. **Public Comment - Vice Chair Clark** read a statement relative to audiotaping of the meeting and posting of agendas. She then opened the meeting to members of the audience.
2. **Consent Item - Minutes** - It was **moved (Bailey), seconded (White) and carried** to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Introduction of New SEC Appointee Michael Mendez - Director Siebal** welcomed **Michael Mendez** to the Commission. **Commissioner Mendez** informed the Commission members that he serves as a Senior Government Affairs Advocate for Blue Shield of California, representing the company in the political arena in Sacramento and Washington D.C. Previously he served as the Senior Legislative Assistant to California Assembly Member Cindy Montanez, Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee.

Members were advised that **Director Siebal** had met with **Commissioner Mendez** to discuss the history and current issues of the Commission.

4. **Overview of EMD Small Water Systems Program - Director Siebal** introduced **Cheryl Hawkins**, Environmental Specialist with the Water Protection Division. **Ms. Hawkins** noted that there are two types of water systems in California, public water systems, and state small water systems.

Public water systems regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals for more than 60 days out of the year. A state small water system serves at least 5, but more than 14 service connections.

Ms. Hawkins noted that two of the largest upcoming issues are arsenic treatment and aging infrastructure. Federal standards have changed since January, 2006 requiring operators to decrease arsenic from the water. Small operators find this

process to be very expensive and can not afford to make the necessary changes. Most of these operators don't have enough money to update their aging equipment.

EMD is looking at some program enhancements which will help the small systems operators. Some ideas being considered are:

- Offering funding classes - Proposition 84 and State Revolving Funds
- Offering classes for preparation for the Distribution System Operators test
- Offering continuing education hours
- Implementing annual reports for the operators

EMD staff is currently working on several ordinances on wells and septic systems which they will bring before the Commission for approval.

5. **Commission Budget Fiscal Year 2007- 2008** - **Vice Chair Clark** called upon **Director Siebal** to present the proposed budget. It was **moved (White), seconded (Namba) and carried** to adopt the budget as proposed.
6. **Strategic Planning** - **Vice Chair Clarke** asked the Commissioners to send their final comments on the SEC Strategic Plan to **Chair Fallon** by May 29. She also asked that Commissions members be ready to adopt the Plan at the June 25 meeting.
7. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report** - Members received a copy of the May 2007 *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** told members that he is in the process of hiring **Mee Ling Tung**, a retired Bay Area health director, to review the Environmental Health Retail Food Inspection and Plan Review Programs. **Ms. Tung** will be working with staff on program efficiency enhancements. **Director Siebal** asked for volunteers to join the EMD/Retail Food Industry Meeting Group which meets the third Tuesday of every month. **Ms. Tung** is scheduled to speak to the group July 17 from 2:00-4:00PM in the EMD Training room. **Commissioners Namba and White** volunteered to join the Group beginning in July.
8. **Environmental News Review** - **Vice Chair Clark** distributed copies and reviewed the following news articles: (1) "Urban waterways to get their annual grooming"; (2) "Editorial: Imprint the blueprint"; (3) "State takes steps to curb warming"; (4) "New front in war on mosquitoes"; (5) "Intake plant ceremony signals end of water war"; (6) "Voters back flood tax"; and, (7) "Counties' air quality gets failing grade".

Vice Chair Clark suggested that next year the Commission plan on participating in Creek Week, an all-volunteer effort to clean up miles of waterways meandering through Sacramento and Placer counties. This clean-up takes place the last week of April. It was also recommended to obtain a speaker from the Creek Week group for the March meeting.

Director Siebal distributed one news article, “Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mark Stone proposes environmental commission”.

9. **2007 Proposed Meeting Topics** - **Commissioner White** requested a presentation by County land fill operators on any proposed buffers around Keifer Landfill. He would like the Commission to send a letter to the County Planning Department that supports any buffers being proposed by Public Works Department. **Commissioner Mendez** asked about an update on AB 704 which **Director Siebal** will research. **Director Siebal** was asked to e-mail **Commissioners Bartholomy** and **Tornatore** regarding securing speakers for the July meeting. **Commissioners Mendez** and **White** suggested several speakers who could speak on global warming.
10. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** shared correspondence from **Terry Maxwell** regarding the effects of artificial night light.
11. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held June 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.