

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – June 25, 2007**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, Shane Jiang and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Panama Bartholomy, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba and Frederick Tornatore.

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

Other Guests: Dave Wilson, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, County of Sacramento; Jack Sales, California Section, International Dark-Sky Association; Keith Roberts, City Energy Manager, City of Sacramento, Carl Hadley, and Terry and Art Maxwell, International Dark-Sky Association.

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

1. **Public Comment** - **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 (Clark), seconded (Bailey)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Decline of Honey Bees** - **Dave Wilson**, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, provided an overview of the factors affecting honey bee populations, including the latest threat which is being called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Members were advised that over the past two decades, there have been great reductions in the abundance of pollinators all around the world. During this time period in the U.S., the western honey bee *Apis mellifera* experienced dramatic population declines, primarily as a result of the accidental introduction in the 1980s of two parasitic mites.

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a poorly understood phenomenon in which worker bees in a beehive or Western honey bee colony abruptly disappear. The sudden inexplicable disappearance of millions of honey bees is being addressed by the CCD working group. The group, made up of researchers, extension agents, and regulatory officials, has been charged with identifying the causes of honey bee colony collapse and finding appropriate strategies to reduce colony loss in the future.

Chief Deputy **Wilson** provided the following recommendations to address the decline of honey bees in the United States:

- Increase investment into the CCD working group.
- Fund research in management and protection of pollinators and apiculture.
- Educate people to understand the importance of insect pollinators.
- Evaluate need for, and implement if justified, regulatory inspection programs for commercial beekeeping.

Mr. Wilson was pleased to note that in May 2007 the University of California Davis announced plans to open a new research facility, hire a bee breeder and a professor specializing in bee biology.

4. **Dark Skies and What It Means** - **Chair Fallon** introduced **Jack Sales**, California Section International Dark-Sky Association. **Mr. Sales** distributed copies of various newsletters and pamphlets with articles on outdoor lighting, circadian rhythms and the Dark-Sky Association. He gave a general overview of light pollution and how to avoid it. **Mr. Sales** advised the **Commissioners** that Sacramento County does not have a night sky ordinance and he encouraged the members to promote outdoor lighting ordinances.

In order to ensure dark sky preservation **Mr. Sales'** mission is to educating the local community about what constitutes quality lighting and how efficient outdoor lighting saves money.

Mr. Sales noted that here are a number of good outdoor light fixtures available to the public. He suggested searching the internet to find lighting manufacturers who produce environmental friendly outdoor lighting fixtures.

5. **City of Sacramento Draft Sustainability Master Plan** - **Chair Fallon** called upon **Keith Roberts**, Energy Manager, City of Sacramento. **Mr. Roberts** distributed handouts on "Creating a Sustainable City - A Master to Move the City of Sacramento Towards Sustainability", and "Sustainability Initiative - City of Minneapolis." He then gave a brief history of the City's Master Plan.

Climate change, air quality, urban design and water supply issues greatly concern the City of Sacramento. **Mr. Roberts** noted that the City annually consumes 45 billion gallons of potable water, generates 1.2 million tons of solid waste, consumes over 3 billion kWh of electrical energy, and uses tens of millions of gallons of motor fuel.

In an effort to reduce its impact on the environment, the City of Sacramento is in the process of developing a Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). The City has adopted the following definition of sustainability:

“Sustainability meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
-United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development

It was noted that in order to address the global and regional issues facing Sacramento, public involvement is vital to effective planning actions. The City is in the process of working with citizens, businesses and community groups to implement sustainability initiatives. As part of their outreach the City has developed a questionnaire to help determine the priorities for the Master Plan. Over the next three months **Mr. Roberts** hopes to receive feedback from the community, finalize the first version of the Plan and develop a first phase implementation plan for City Council approval later this year. After approval is received he would like to return to the **Commission** with an update.

Mr. Roberts provided the **Commission** with a copy of the questionnaire and asked them to complete the survey. **Members** felt the questionnaire was a critical component of the City Master Plan and agreed to place it on the SEC website.

It was **moved (Clark)**, **seconded (White)** and **carried** that a letter of support for the development of the Draft Sustainability Master Plan be prepared and forwarded to the Sacramento City Council. **Vice Chair Clark** volunteered to write the letter.

6. **Strategic Planning** – It was the consensus of the **Commission** to add an “agricultural” section to their strategic plan as well as to advocate for dark sky preservation.
7. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director’s Report** - Members received a copy of the June 2007 *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** highlighted the County “Stars of Excellence” award program and provided information on the Board of Supervisors’ Resolution proclaiming May 21-27, 2007 as “Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week” in Sacramento County.

Director Siebal provided information on the “Take It Back Partnership” group. The Department of Toxic Substance Control and SMUD are working together to provide collection points for fluorescent bulb and tube recycling. **Director Siebal** mentioned that he would like to see the SEC and the cities of Folsom and Elk Grove participate in this group. **Chair Fallon** agreed that a member of the **Commission** should be involved with the DTSC program.

8. **Environmental News Review** - This item was postponed to the July meeting.
9. **2007 Proposed Meeting Topics - Members** of the **Commission** discussed the following topics for future SEC meetings:
 - July 2007 - Sacramento's climate change
 - September 2007 - **Edison Hicks** will be invited to provide an update on the City of Sacramento's transfer station and disposal practices.
 - October 2007 - **Dr. Dick Jackson** will be invited to speak on obesity and the Planned Neighborhood and a representative from the City Folsom will be asked to discuss the Folsom Master Plan.
10. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** shared correspondence from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors regarding the reappointment of **Commission Members Clark** and **Namba**; and the Department of the Air Force.
11. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. The next SEC meeting will be held on July 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 700 H Street, Room 1450, Sacramento, California.