

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

**Commission members present:** Krista Clark, Mike Fallon, Shane Jiang, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, Frederick Tornatore and Mark White.

**Commission members absent:** Robert Bailey and Panama Bartholomy.

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

**Other Guests:** Tim Taylor, Director of Strategic Planning, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD); Keith Roberts, City Energy Manager, City of Sacramento; Amy Luers, California Climate Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists; Bud Beebe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD); Randy Angeloni and Dan Mendonsa, Facility Planning, County of Sacramento and Supervisor Roger Dickinson.

The meeting was called to order by SEC **Chair 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.
2. **Consent Item** - **Minutes** - It was **moved (Clark)**, **seconded (Namba)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Climate Change in Sacramento County**

A. **Climate Change Impacts on Sacramento and State Policy** - **Amy Luers**, Union of Concerned Scientists, shared information on how global warming is one of the most serious challenges facing us today. In the absence of federal leadership to address climate change, **Ms. Luers** explained that many states and regions have begun taking action on their own. California and other states are setting targets for reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, adopting policies to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, and developing statewide climate action plans.

There is no longer any debate that the world is warming. During the last 100 years the world has experienced about a 1.5°F rise in temperature. **Ms. Luers** noted that California and the western United States have experienced a 1.3°F rise in temperature. California will be impacted by rising sea levels, lost farm productivity, the prospect of worsening droughts, and increase in wild fires and wildlife losses. We need to be prepared for increased periods of extreme heat and worsening of air quality.

**Ms. Luers** explained the importance of using energy more efficiently and moving to renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal, and bioenergy) which would significantly reduce the emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Global-climate change is a long-term problem whose solution will require sustained effort and substantial investments far into the future. However, the good news is that most of the severe impacts can be avoided by reducing GHG levels.

**B. AQMD Climate Protection Program - Tim Taylor**, Director of Strategic Planning, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, stated that it is a consensus of the scientific community that global warming is being heavily influenced by the rising concentration of GHG.

**Mr. Taylor** noted that there are 35 air districts in California which, under federal and state law, regulate emission sources. Districts already regulate some GHGs (nitrous oxide, methane and ozone) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) will eventually be added to the list.

**Mr. Taylor** reported that AQMD has taken the following actions to reduce emissions:

- Developed a climate protection program that includes outreach and education, data collection and analysis, and provides support and leadership for local, state, and national efforts to reduce emissions
- Joined the California Climate Action Registry (CA Registry)
- Joined the SMUD Greenery® program
- Purchased hybrid vehicles for employee use on inspection sites
- Provided incentives to employees to commute via public transit

**C. Climate Leadership - Bud Beebe**, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, SMUD, noted that SMUD takes climate change very seriously and that it is possible to reduce its severity. To reduce the impacts of climate change SMUD is working to reduce its own direct GHG emissions and working to help SMUD customers to reduce their energy usage.

**Mr. Beebe** noted that SMUD was the first company to certify a GHG emissions inventory with the voluntary CA Registry. After certifying the first year of emissions data, SMUD was able to identify additional opportunities for reducing GHG emissions.

**D. County of Sacramento Climate Change Policies - Randy Angeloni**, Energy Program Manager (retired) and **Dan Mendonsa**, Energy Program Manager, noted that the County has a history of being energy efficient and conserving energy and is redoubling its efforts to reduce its energy consumption and carbon footprint.

**Mr. Mendonsa** noted that the County joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), an international organization established to help local governments address sustainability issues. The organization developed a recognized software tool to perform “what if” scenarios to help local governments predict the GHG impacts of possible policies or projects.

The County voluntarily joined the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). The CCX is the world’s first legally binding rules-based GHG allowance trading system for

emissions trading based on all six greenhouse gases. The primary instrument of trade (carbon financial instrument) is a metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. The exchange functions like a stock exchange with legally enforceable penalties and benefits.

**Mr. Mendonsa** concluded his presentation by advising the members of the Commission that the County is in the process of documenting its past and current GHG levels and will continue to investigate policies and projects that will help lower GHG emissions in the future.

**E. City of Sacramento Climate Change Policies - Keith Roberts**, Energy Manager, reported that the City developed the following five step process to increase energy efficiency and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from municipal facilities and operations:

- 1) Determine emissions inventory
- 2) Identify target reduction levels
- 3) Develop a climate action plan
- 4) Implement climate action plan
- 5) Review and correct action plan

To help accomplish their goals the City of Sacramento joined the CA Registry, a voluntary GHG registry that accepts emissions data from state and national entities; completed inventory for 2004 and 2005; and certified emissions inventory for 2004.

Members were advised that **Mayor Fargo** signed the Urban Environmental Accords and Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) on April 22, 2006. The City has set climate policy goals to reduce GHG emissions by 84% by 2050.

**Mr. Roberts** noted that the City has drafted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) which has 15 proposed programs. Some of the programs noted were: tree planting; facility efficiency; climate neutral buildings; education and awareness; fleet vehicles; and fleet fuels.

**Supervisor Roger Dickinson** joined the meeting during this part of the presentation and noted he was delighted to see the Commission discussing climate change and global warming issues. **Supervisor Dickinson** informed members that he was instrumental in Sacramento County joining the Chicago Climate Exchange and he encouraged the members to spread the word about the critical importance of this issue and of reducing our energy consumption.

4. **Correspondence - Secretary Nelson** shared correspondence from Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and Mather Environmental Cleanup.

**Vice Chair Krista Clark** requested that the SEC agenda be sent to other planning commissions within the county and incorporated cities. Members requested that **Director Siebal** obtain information about the Mather RAB. **Commissioner Namba** shared information on Sacramento area levies and how they are in danger of losing the trees and shrubs which surround them. The national Corps of Engineers office

is writing new regulations that would prohibit such plantings and require local and state levee maintenance agencies to bulldoze existing vegetation or lose federal support. **Commissioner Namba** would like to add removal of levee vegetation to the meeting topic schedule. **Commissioner White** suggested that the Commission post a list of things individuals can do to combat global warming on the SEC website. **Commissioner White** would like the Commission to acknowledge Sacramento County, City of Sacramento and SMUD for their leadership in the absence of state or federal legislative requirements and establishing aggressive programs that have helped guide the state legislation by example. The elected officials of all three entities deserve credit for taking action before it was required.

Members received a copy of the July 2006 *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** shared information on the following topics: (1) New EMD building will be leased and located at the Mather Commerce Center; (2) Environmental Health Division staff conducted interviews with the media in order to provide a status report on the color-coded placarding.

5. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held August 27, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.