

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – August 27, 2007**

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

Commission members absent: Shane Jiang, Michael Mendez, and Marjorie Namba.

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

Other Guests: Paul Philleo, Principal Civil Engineer, Department of Waste Management and Recycling, County of Sacramento; Glenna Trochet, M.D., Sacramento County Health Officer; John Rogers, Chief, Environmental Health Division, EMD; and Steve Peterson, Director, Environmental Stewardship and Planning, Inc.

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 (Bailey), seconded (Tornatore)** and **carried** to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Pandemic Flu, West Nile Virus and Update on Sacramento City Needle Exchange Program** - **Chair Fallon** introduced **Dr. Glennah Trochet**, Sacramento County Health Officer. **Dr. Trochet** provided information on the West Nile Virus (WNV) which arrived in the United States in 1999. This disease is transmitted to humans, birds, horses, and other animals, by infected mosquitoes. It is well established in Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Mosquitoes get the disease from infected birds and can transmit it when they bite others. WNV can cause encephalitis in humans. Most infections are mild, with flu-like symptoms. Eighty percent of infected humans have no symptoms.

As a result of the ongoing disease outbreak, management of mosquitoes that vector WNV throughout the United States has necessitated using insecticides. **Dr. Trochet** also noted that the public is concerned about the risks from insecticide use. Studies show that based on human-health criteria, the risks from WNV exceeds the risks from exposure to mosquito insecticides.

Dr. Trochet acknowledged that work on preparing for a possible influenza pandemic continues but due to time constraints she would make a more thorough presentation at a future meeting.

Dr. Trochet then discussed Senate Bill 1159 which allows a city or county to create a Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP), a collaboration between pharmacies and local and state health agencies. DPDP authorizes pharmacists to

sell ten or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes for human use without a prescription. Currently ten pharmacies are enrolled in City of Sacramento and to date no adverse incidents have been reported.

Dr. Trochet shared information on the legal syringe exchange programs which the Sacramento City Council authorized. Two organizations are responsible for the syringe exchange program within the City of Sacramento: Safer Alternative thru Networking & Education and Harm Reduction Services.

According to **Dr. Trochet**, SB 1305 requires the proper disposal of home-generated sharps waste (syringes, needles, lancets, etc.). Effective September 1, 2008, there will be some changes to SB 1305. The new law is designed to ensure appropriate disposal of sharps waste in order to protect the general public and workers from potential exposure to contagious diseases and health safety risks. It may have major impact on people who inject medications at home and city and county household hazardous waste facilities. An update will be made at a future SEC meeting.

4. **Buffer Land Around the Keifer Road Landfill** - **Chair Fallon** advised members that **Paul Philleo** would be replacing **David Pelsner** as speaker. He then introduced **Paul Philleo**, Principal Civil Engineer, Department of Waste Management and Recycling (DWMR), who provided an overview of the bufferland zone around the Kiefer Landfill. The bufferlands extend about 2,000 feet beyond the property boundary of the Kiefer Landfill. As an owner of over half of the bufferlands and areas surrounding the landfill, the County will be developing a program to utilize the lands as a public asset for the greatest community benefit, and to be compatible with adjacent property owners in the bufferlands. The first step in the program process is to conduct a Land Use Feasibility Analysis (LUFA).

The LUFA process will be implemented and developed by Environmental Stewardship and Planning, Inc., (ESP) of Sacramento. ESP and DWMR will work with interested individuals and organizations to gather ideas and opinions that will influence the bufferlands planning process.

An informational workshop on the LUFA process will be held at the County Board of Supervisors on September 25, 2007.

It was **moved (White)**, **seconded (Clark)** and **carried** that the Commission write a letter to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, the Sacramento County Department of Waste Management & Recycling, the Rancho Cordova City Council, and to their respective land use and zoning authorities, requesting that they take action to prevent the encroachment of uses incompatible with land filling within 2,000 feet of the boundary of the Keifer Road Landfill. **Commissioner White** agreed to draft the letter.

Action Item: **Commissioner White** will draft a letter requesting that various authorities take action to prevent the encroachment of uses incompatible with land filling within 2,000 feet of the boundary of the Keifer Road Landfill.

5. **Update on Green/Yellow/Red Program and Cal Code** - **Director Siebal** introduced **John Rogers**, Chief of the Environmental Health Division. **Chief Rogers** shared information on the Green/Yellow/ Red Placard Program. Since January 2007 when the program was introduced. **Chief Rogers** noted that 5,276 restaurants, markets, bakeries, school cafeterias and other retail food establishments in the County have been inspected and issued a color-coded placard.

Chief Rogers advised members about the new California Retail Food Code (CalCode). In July 2007 some changes were added to the food safety laws in California. Members were informed that EMD has distributed a Compliance Assistance Bulletin containing a summary of the change to over 5,000 food businesses. Some of the new requirements include:

- Employee illness reporting requirements
- Demonstration of food safety knowledge by employees
- New consumer advisories for certain raw food products
- New minimum cooking temperatures for different types of food

Chief Rogers gave information on another CalCode change: Foodservice operations for Licensed Health Care Facilities (LCFH) (with 16 or more beds) will now be regulated by EMD.

Chief Rogers advised members that September is Food Safety Education Month® and that EMD will be giving Awards of Excellence to food business operators. Approximately 10% of operators or approximately 600 food business operators will receive an Award of Excellence. In order to qualify for the award, a facility must have three consecutive inspections without major violations observed and must have an employee with a current Food Safety Certificate.

6. **Strategic Planning** - After much discussion of the Strategic plan it was **moved (Clark)**, and **seconded (Bailey)** to adopt the revised plan. **Commissioner Bartholomy** requested delay the vote on the motion until more members were present. **Commissioner Clark** then withdrew her motion. It was the consensus of the Commission that a committee consisting of **Chair Fallon**, Commissioners **Namba, Bartholomy**, and **Director Siebal** would meet and come to a consensus on an action plan based approach with long-term targets. **Commissioner Bartholomy** expressed his hope that the plan would encompass measurable targets.

Action Item: Strategic Planning Committee members will provide action plan to the Commission by September 17th, 2007.

The proposed Strategic plan will be presented to the Commission for discussion and approval at the September meeting. Members with concerns about the plan were advised to attend the September meeting.

Action Item: EMD staff to post revised, proposed Strategic plan on the SEC web page one week prior to September meeting.

7. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report**

Members received a copy of the August 2007 *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** told members that under a policy approved by the Board of Supervisors, EMD's Hazardous Materials Division may return fine and penalty revenue collected through enforcement actions to compliant businesses and facilities after the Director determines contingencies and a prudent reserve has been addressed. It is believed that this innovative program is the only program of its type in California. **Director Siebal** also told the members that the SEC mailing list now includes seven local planning commissions and that the SEC website has been updated to include a list of suggestions that individuals can do to combat global warming.

Commissioner **Bartholomy** noted that the Air Resources Board (ARB) was doing something similar on climate change issues; he suggested that **Director Siebal** contact the ARB.

Action Item: **Director Siebal** to contact the ARB to ascertain how they provide tips to the public on global warming.

8. **Environmental News Review** - **Vice Chair Clark** distributed copies and reviewed the following news articles: (1) "Urban plan, but city keeps options open"; and (2) "Seeing stars is simple as turning down the lights."

9. **2007 Proposed Meeting Topics** - **Chair Fallon** and members of the Commission confirmed meeting topics for the months of September and October. **Commissioner White** suggested asking the Director of the California Integrated Waste Management Department, Mark Leary, to report on the State's plan to dispose of sharp wastes.

10. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** noted that no correspondence had been received.

11. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held September 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.