

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – October 29, 2007**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Krista Clark, Shane Jiang, Marjorie Namba, and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Panama Bartholomy, Mike Fallon, Michael Mendez and Frederick Tornatore.

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

Other Guests: Dennis Green, Chief, Hazardous Materials Division, EMD; Teri Duarte, Director, Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program, DHHS; and Patrick Johnson, Sacramento Housing Alliance.

In the absence of **Chair Fallon**, the meeting was called to order by **SEC Vice Chair Clark** at 6:30 p.m. Attendance list and sign in sheet were distributed.

1. **Public Comment - Vice Chair Clark** read a statement relative to videotaping of the meeting and posting of agendas. She then opened the meeting to members of the audience.
2. **Consent Item - Minutes** - It was **moved (Namba), seconded (Bailey) and carried** to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. **Obesity and the Planned Neighborhood** - **Vice Chair Clark** introduced **Teri Duarte**, Director, WIC Program. She noted that studies on sprawl and public health have found that increased levels of sprawl are associated with increased obesity, decreased physical activity and poorer health, including the risk of motor vehicle and pedestrian fatalities.

People living in the most sprawling areas are likely to weigh six pounds more than people living in the most compact counties. Those living in the highest sprawl areas report the most health problems.

Ms. Duarte explained that within the U.S. 25 percent of adults are sedentary and 60 percent are not active enough. People know what they should eat and that they should exercise, but the current design of our communities does not encourage outdoor activity.

Ms. Duarte's presentation provided information on three community design factors associated with lower obesity:

- Greater land use mix
- Greater street connectivity
- Higher residential density

Ms. Duarte noted that is very possible to improve community health through land use planning and transportation. The zoning codes of the future need to serve

purposes beyond protecting people from toxics, noise, etc. Using zoning codes to require mixed-use development may help to achieve the walkability outcomes, but the system still needs to maintain flexibility and at the same time be able to control for undesirable outcomes. It is important to influence land development in the early stages and it is not too late -- two-thirds of the structures that will be standing in the U.S. in 2050 are not yet built.

4. **Update on the Sacramento Regional Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Business Recycling Ordinance** - Vice Chair Clark called upon Dennis Green, Chief, Hazardous Materials Division, EMD. Chief Green noted that the SWA, a Joint Powers Authority consisting of the City of Sacramento, the City of Citrus Heights, and the unincorporated area of Sacramento, regulates commercial solid waste collection through its franchised haulers by ordinances.

On April 8, 2007 the SWA Board adopted a Business Recycling Ordinance, SWA Ordinance 17. This ordinance establishes recycling requirements for commercial businesses. The SWA General Manager delegated implementation responsibility for the ordinance to EMD.

Chief Green noted that Ordinance 17 requires all businesses subscribing to four cubic yards or greater weekly garbage collection service to have a recycling program. EMD already inspects many of the businesses impacted by this ordinance; therefore, implementing Ordinance 17 is a natural fit for both departments.

Chief Green reported that the initial stages of the Business Recycling program implementation involved much foundational work that included establishment of trained staff, development and refinement of the regulatory inventory data base, development of necessary checklists and other forms, and the creation and distribution of educational materials. That portion of the workload has been largely completed. EMD is now in the process of shifting from a predominantly educational mode to activities emphasizing inspections and audits.

Chief Green noted that staff is regularly asked the following questions:

- What if my property manager, who is responsible for garbage service in our building, does not provide tenants a recycling service? **Answer:** EMD will contact the property manager.
- I am a property manager and have provided a recycling service for my tenants but some tenants refuse to participate in recycling. Am I responsible for them and will I be violated? **Answer:** As long as the property manager has done what they are required by providing a recycling service and giving information to their tenants, then the tenant is responsible and held accountable.
- I am a business who shares a dumpster but I don't generate four cubic yards of weekly garbage, do I still have to comply with the ordinance? **Answer:** Everyone is in on recycling; EMD is not counting the amount of garbage businesses are individually generating.
- Do you provide recycling containers for offices? Where can I get recycling containers? **Answer:** EMD does not provide containers; check online or at local hardware stores for recycling containers.

Additionally, **Chief Green** noted that the responses from area businesses have been overwhelmingly positive.

5. **Update on 2007 Environmental Excellence Awards** - **Vice Chair Clark** asked **Commissioner Namba** for an update on the Environmental Awards. Subcommittee members **Namba, Mendez** and **White**, and **Director Siebal** and **SEC Secretary Nelson**, met to re-draft the 2007 Environmental Excellence Awards nomination packet. **Commissioner Namba** noted that she received good input from the subcommittee and the nomination packet is ready for publication. Members asked **Secretary Nelson** to update the SEC website to include a list of award winners from the last seven years.

Action Item: Staff to update SEC webpage with names of past winners of the Environmental Excellence Awards.

6. **Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report**
Members received a copy of the October 2007 *EMD Update*. **Director Siebal** shared information on: (1) Release of County's first "report card" which targets areas of the County's Strategic Plan. The results amounted to a passing grade in many respects, and many areas were identified as works in progress; and (2) the City of Sacramento's Resolution thanking Frederick Tornatore for his service to the SEC.
7. **Environmental News Review** - **Vice Chair Clark** will provide news articles at the November meeting. **Commissioner White** suggested that each member send news articles of interest to **Secretary Nelson**. **Vice Chair Clark** asked if Sacramento County had been involved or asked for any assistance regarding the fires in southern California. **Director Siebal** noted that he had recently met with Rick Martinez, Director of the Chief Emergency Operations, about this issue and no assistance had been requested.
8. **2007 Proposed Meeting Topics** - **Vice Chair Clark** and the members of the Commission undertook a discussion of potential meeting topics for the remainder of 2007 and January of 2008. Suggested topics are as follows:
 - November - reschedule superfund and water recycling program updates.
 - January - **Commissioner White** requested that Tom Cahill from UCD speak on air quality impacts of the fires in our region.
9. **Correspondence** - **Secretary Nelson** noted that correspondence had been received from **Joseph Clark**, Community Relations with McClellan AFB. **Mr. Clark** wanted the SEC to be aware of the activities at McClellan relative to restoration and invited them to a meeting. **Commissioner Jiang** asked Commission members to contact him for further information.
10. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held November 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.