

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – January 7, 2008**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Mike Fallon, Shane Jiang, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Krista Clark.

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

Other Guests: Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD); Wendy Hoffspiegel, Senior Environmental Coordinator, and Greg Rowe, Sacramento County Airport System.

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

1. Public Comment - Vice Chair Bailey 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 (Fallon), seconded (Namba) and carried to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 meeting as presented.
3. Presentation to Outgoing Chair Mike Fallon - Director Siebal expressed appreciation to Commissioner Fallon for his work as SEC Chair for the 2006-2007 calendar years. He also noted that Commissioner Fallon had served on many sub-committees, was instrumental in getting the SEC Strategic Plan approved, and supported the development of the Green/Yellow Green Placard Program. Director Siebal then presented him with an engraved clock. Commissioner Fallon thanked the members of the Commission and Director Siebal.
4. Sacramento International Airport Recycling Program - Vice Chair Bailey called upon Director Siebal to introduce Wendy Hoffspiegel, Senior Environmental Coordinator, Sacramento County Airport System (SCAS). Because of 2004 California legislation which requires recycling at large venues that serve over 2,000 customers per day, Ms. Hoffspiegel reported that the Airport Recycling Working Group convened in 2005 to address the recycling problem. The initial stages of the program implementation involved collecting information from other airports, evaluating collection methods and recycling bins, initiating a new contract for waste and recycling services, and installing a compactor dedicated for commingled recyclables.

In February 2007 recycling activities in the terminals began. Ms. Hoffspiegel noted that vegetative matter, used oil and oil filters, antifreeze, batteries, metals, concrete and asphalt and used tires are being recycled.

As the recycling program continues to expand more recycling containers are showing up throughout the airport facilities. Members asked Ms. Hoffspiegel if all the airlines and tenants were recycling and she stated that she is working with the ones who do not recycle at this time.

When members questioned the cost and effectiveness of this recycling program Ms. Hoffspiegel noted those figures were not yet available. Once the figures have been compiled she will share them with the SEC.

5. Update on Fireplace Ordinance – Vice Chair Bailey introduced Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer, AQMD. Mr. Greene noted that October 25, 2007, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District board adopted Rule 421: Mandatory Episodic Curtailment of Wood and Other Solid Fuel Burning to reduce the harmful emissions that come from wood burning devices in Sacramento County. In response to Rule 421, the Check Before You Burn program was launched. This program is in effect every year from November through February. Although no fines will be issued this year, a letter to violators will be initiated by a complaint or by visual observance of smoke by an inspector.

The AQMD is required to establish measures to reduce particulate matter (PM) wintertime air quality problems. Mr. Greene stated that there are four levels in the Check Before You Burn program:

- State 2 – All Burning Prohibited
- Stage 1 – No Burn – Unless Exempt
- Burning Discouraged
- Burn Cleanly

The burning restriction is necessary because smoke generated from residential wood burning is the largest source of PM and other toxic air contaminants in Sacramento County. Almost 50% of wintertime pollution is caused by residential wood burning devices. Scientific studies link particulate pollution to serious health problems including asthma, chronic bronchitis, cystic fibrosis, heart disease, coughing, wheezing, permanent decreased lung function, and premature death.

To determine whether or not homeowners can burn wood in their fireplaces Mr. Greene offered the following suggests:

- Call 1(877) 662-8765
- Check online www.airquality.org
- Sign up to receive an Air Alert, www.sparetheair.com
- Look in *The Sacramento Bee* on the weather page
- Listen to radio and TV weather broadcasts

Commissioner Jiang inquired how the success of the new program is measured. Mr. Greene explained that they have a long term monitoring program with 11 sites around the County. Success of the program will be at the federal register

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sites; they inspect and evaluate the sites every year. He also added that he expects most of the neighboring counties to adopt similar rules in the near future and that will result in better air quality for Sacramento County.

6. Update on 2007 Environmental Excellence Awards - Awards Chair Namba noted that an extensive outreach encouraging nominations had been done and that nominations must be received by February 8, 2008. She encouraged Commission members to send nomination packets to their friends.
7. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report Members received a copy of the December 2007 *EMD Update*. Director Siebal shared information on the following topics: (1) EMD Director and CCDEH Board members met with the State Department of Public Health to discuss common regulatory priorities; and (2) EMD successfully completed its first year of the Green, Yellow, Red Placard food safety and inspection program and continues to see more facilities receiving green placards.
8. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair Bailey provided news articles on: (1) California sees large increase in recycling, Californians recycled nearly 800 million more beverage containers during the first half of 2007 compared to the same period in 2006; and (2) Truckee fears its star power is in peril and that city planners may have to toughen outdoor lighting rules to preserve night-sky view.
9. 2008 Proposed Meeting Topics - Vice Chair Bailey asked the members of the Commission to postpone a discussion of potential meeting topics until Chair Clark returns in February.
10. Correspondence - Secretary Nelson noted that correspondence had been received from Teresa Haenggi, Associate Planner, City of Sacramento. The memo summarized and responded to some of the Commissioners' comments on the 2030 General Plan draft policies that they reviewed at the November 26, 2007 meeting. A copy of the Letter of Support for Extended Producer Responsibility was provided to the Commissioners.
11. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held February 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.