

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)
Minutes – March 24, 2008**

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

Commission members absent: Panama Bartholomy and Michael Mendez.

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

Other Guests: None.

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

1. Public Comment – 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 (Bailey), seconded (Namba) and carried to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting as presented.
3. Review Environmental Excellence Awards Applications - Awards Chair Namba lead a discussion pertaining to the awards nominations received. Several members suggested recognizing everyone who made any environmental improvement. Awards Chair Namba provided a historical perspective that the awards were initially meant to recognize people without scoring. Commissioner White suggested using a stratified system for choosing winners next year, perhaps having one top winner. Because there were no entries from any schools this year, it was suggested that next year each member be assigned one school to contact in order to recruit students and teachers to enter a nomination form.

It was decided to further discuss the award process at a meeting later in the year. Members were informed by Director Siebal the nomination forms had been reviewed by staff for compliance issues and everyone was in compliance with the department. Chair Clark asked that future nominees demonstrate some environmental improvement in their application. The application will be modified to request that information.

The 2007 nominees are the Sacramento County Airport System, the California National Guard, Jack E. Sales, the City of Sacramento Planning Department, Dos Coyotes Border Café-Folsom, Dolan's Lumber & Building Materials, and Marty Weithman. The awards will be given out during the televised April meeting.

It was moved (White), seconded (Bailey) and carried to present awards to all the candidates.

Action Item: Staff to secure dates before the various City Councils and the County Board of Supervisors for presentation of the awards. Commission members to be informed of the dates.

4. Discuss Creek Week - Chair Clark and Commission members discussed participation in the 2008 Creek Clean Up, Saturday, April 26th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Commissioners agreed there was not enough time to organize as a group for the April 26th clean up and that an alternate opportunity would be researched. Director Siebal told Commission members Earth Day t-shirts with the SEC imprint had been ordered for use at the event; it was suggested everyone should wear one during the next SEC meeting.

Action Item: Staff to bring t-shirts to April meeting and to arrange for group photo of Commission members.

After discussion Chair Clark directed staff to secure more details about clean up activities. Chair Clark would also like to see the Commissioners participate in more public activities.

Action Item: Staff to contact Creek Week President Alta Tura for more information regarding to the 2008 Creek Week Clean Up and report back to members.

5. Tracking System for County/City(s) Planning Processes - Chair Clark presented a spreadsheet which she explained is a mechanism to track the governmental entities planning documents that are in progress. She asked Commission members to volunteer to take one of the entities and fill in the matrix with pertinent planning information. Her hope is for the Commission to receive presentations and then submit comments to the cities and county before planning decisions are made. The information for the spreadsheet is due before the April meeting.

Commission members were asked to track the following entities:

- City of Sacramento General Plan-Panama Bartholomy
- City of Sacramento Sustainability Plan-Mark White
- County of Sacramento General Plan-Margie Namba
- City of Rancho Cordova General Plan-Shane Jiang
- SACOG Transportation Plan-Mike Fallon
- Cities of Folsom, Galt and Isleton-Robert Bailey
- City of Citrus Heights-Krista Clark
- City of Elk Grove-Krista Clark
- County Airport-Mike Mendez
- EMD-Val Siebal

Action Item: Staff to send spreadsheet to Commission members so they can populate it with current planning information. E-mail document to SEC secretary before the April 21 meeting.

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6. Commission Budget Fiscal Year 2008-2009 - Members received a copy of the proposed 2008-2009 budget which was reviewed by Director Siebal. Members were advised that the 2008-2009 budget did not increase over the 2007-2008 budget.

It was moved (White) seconded (Namba) and carried to adopt the 2008-2009 budget as presented.

7. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report
Director Siebal advised members that Panama Bartholomy had been reappointed and that Matt Jones was appointed to the Commission by the City of Sacramento. Members received a copy of the March 2008 *EMD Update*. Director Siebal shared information on the following topics: (1) EMD Director and staff attended a three day work shop on disaster preparedness for environmental health professionals. EMD is working on a disaster plan which Director Siebal will bring to the Commission for review; and (2) Environmental Health Division Chief John Rogers and staff participated in the Westland meat recall efforts. Several schools and markets had received recalled shipments.

Members also received the winter 2008 edition of EMD's new publication, *EMD News & Notes*.

8. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair Bailey provided news articles on: (1) Los Angeles County supervisors to vote on plans to ban plastic bags at large grocery and retail stores; (2) Los Angeles County supervisors approve a plan requiring large grocery and retail stores in unincorporated areas to significantly reduce the use of plastic bags or face an outright ban in 2013; (3) Salmon run verges on a collapse; and (4) Plasma gasification technology being considered by the City of Sacramento as an alternative to its daily trans-Sierra hauling of waste to Nevada landfill.

Commissioner White was interested in the possibility of having a link to a greenhouse gas emissions calculator available on the SEC website. Commissioners concurred.

Action Item: Staff to arrange for IT staff to place a link to a greenhouse gas emissions calculator on the SEC website.

Director Siebal and Chair Clark met with Steve Harriman relative to the City of Rancho Cordova's participation in the Commission. Member Bailey noted that when new cities join the Commission it requires opening up all the ordinances and that would be a good time to revamp them. Member White will also initiate talk with the cities of Citrus Heights and Elk Grove regarding their participation.

Action Item: Member White to contact the cities of Citrus Heights and Elk Grove relative to participation in the Commission.
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9. 2008 Proposed Meeting Topics – Chair Clark and the members of the Commission undertook a discussion of potential meeting topics in 2008. Suggested topics are as follows for May: presentation from the Tree Foundation, discussion of the EMD building LEED checklist and a review of the Environmental Health Division's Retail Food Safety report completed by consultant Mee Ling Tung.

Suggestions for future meetings included: C & D ordinance, RT transportation to the airport, pharmaceutical waste in the water, lifecycle analysis of plastic vs. reusable bags and an update on Pandemic Flu and West Nile Virus.

10. Correspondence - Secretary Nelson noted that two letters had been received from Margo Reid Brown, Chair, California Integrated Waste Management Board. Both letters responded to the letter of support for Extended Producer Responsibility they received from the Commission; City of Sacramento reappointment of Commission member Bartholomy; SEC letter supporting Environmental Health Division's application for the 2008 Samuel J. Crumbine Award; and letter from Senator Dave Cox regarding Extended Producer Responsibility.
11. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held April 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 700 H Street, Room 1450, Sacramento, California.