

**Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC)  
Minutes – April 21, 2008**

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Krista Clark, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, and Mark White.

Commission members absent: Mike Fallon.

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

Other Guests: Alta Tura, Urban Creeks Council of Sacramento; Dan Gwaltney, Associate Civil Engineer, Water Resources, MSA; Cecilia Jensen, Chief, and Dana Booth, Program Manager II, Water Protection Division, EMD; June Livingston, BERC; Emily Butler, SPLASH Program; Claudia Goss, CMO, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District; Forest Eber, Dolan's Lumber Company; Terry and Art Maxwell; Curt Barnes; Jack and Beverly Sales; Bobby Coyote, Dos Coyotes Border Café; Helen Selph, Sacramento County Airports; Major John Moorman and General Kevin Ellsworth, California National Guard.

The meeting was called to order by SEC Chair Krista Clark at 6:30 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 March 24, 2008 meeting as presented.
3. Introduction of New Commissioner, Matt Jones - Director Siebal introduced and welcomed Matt Jones to the Commission. Matt is employed by the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District and is responsible for air quality attainment planning and technical review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
4. Presentation of Environmental Excellence Awards - Chair Clark introduced Vice Chair Namba who provided information relative to formulation and implementation of the awards program. The award for "Voluntarily Exceeding Environmental Regulatory Requirements" was presented to the Sacramento County Airport System.

The California National Guard, Jack E. Sales, the City of Sacramento Planning Department, Dos Coyotes Boarder Café-Folsom, Dolan's Lumber & Building Materials, and Marty Weithman received awards for "Providing Leadership Toward the Protection and Enhancement of the Environment in the Greater Sacramento Community."

5. Creek Week 2008 - Chair Clark introduced Ms. Alta Tura of the Urban Creeks Council of Sacramento who shared information on the 2008 Creek Week activities, April 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. She invited everyone to take part in the area-wide volunteer effort to improve and enhance the urban waterways by cleaning trash and debris as well as removing invasive exotic plants. She suggested that participants should bring gloves and participate at their own level.

Ms. Tura enlisted assistance from Chair Clark in playing a game she uses when teaching groups of children about creeks and how some of our everyday activities can cause water pollution. Chair Clark was successful in her attempt to eliminate items from the “creek” that threaten creek life.

Creek Clean Up day is Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To volunteer at the clean up site nearest you can call Ms. Tura at (916) 454-4544 or sign up at the following website [www.creekweek.net](http://www.creekweek.net).

Commission members asked about the funding for Creek Week. Ms. Tura explained that the Urban Creeks Council of Sacramento sponsors the event and they rely on sponsors to contribute money and in-kind goods and services and volunteers to support the program.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Tura for her interesting and important presentation.

6. Splash Program Overview - Chair Clark introduced Claudia Goss, CMO, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Emily Butler, Sacramento Splash Program Director. Ms. Goss noted that Splash is a watershed education program jointly sponsored by a consortium of water agencies in Sacramento County: the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities and the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources. She then introduced Emily Butler who replaced Eva Butler, the scheduled speaker.

Ms. Butler provided a brief history of the Splash program which began in the late 1990's when it was recognized that there was a need for hands-on environmental science focused on local natural resources. Mather Field was selected as a program site for its accessible vernal pools, streams and lake.

Splash provides a program to Sacramento County elementary students, “Life in our Watershed: Investigating Vernal Pools.” The curriculum targets 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and provides 13 lessons and one field trip. A high school level curriculum is also available, “Life in our Watershed: Investigating Streams and Water Quality.” The students get to assess water quality impacts on stream organisms, conduct community planning exercises and connect with stewardship activities in the community.

Ms. Butler noted that over the past 8 years, the classroom program has reached over 20,000 students. The entire curriculum is available on CD, as well as on the website at [www.sacsplash.org](http://www.sacsplash.org).

Members asked when the public could tour the vernal pools. Ms. Butler said that most tours begin in February and continue through April. Commissioner Namba suggested inviting high school students to speak to the Commission about their experience with the program.

7. Overview of the County's Stormwater Quality Program - Director Siebal introduced Dan Gwaltney, Associate Civil Engineer, Department of Water Resources, Stormwater Utility. Mr. Gwaltney noted that the Sacramento County Stormwater Quality Program works to clean urban stormwater runoff and to protect local creeks and rivers. The Federal Clean Water Act was amended in 1972 to create the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program which began by regulating point sources of pollution. Studies proved that many of the remaining pollution issues were associated with stormwater runoff from urban areas.

Mr. Gwaltney explained that the Federal Clean Water Act requires large urban areas to obtain NPDES stormwater permits. A stormwater permit was issued by the State jointly to the County of Sacramento and the Cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, and Rancho Cordova. The permittees have joined together to form the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership (SSQP). The goals of the SSQP are to:

- Educate and inform the public about urban runoff pollution
- Encourage public participation in community and clean-up events
- Work with industries and businesses to encourage pollution prevention
- Require construction activities to reduce erosion and pollution
- Require developing projects to include pollution controls that will continue to operate after construction is complete

Stormwater permit requirements prohibit non-stormwater discharges, reduce pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extend practicable (MEP) and develop and implement a plan to accomplish these objectives (Stormwater Quality Improvement Plan). The consequences of non-compliance could result in fines up to \$25,000 per day and misdemeanor charges against individuals.

Members questioned Mr. Gwaltney about public education and outreach. He said County public outreach activities include developing educational materials, conducting media campaigns, and encouraging public participation in creek cleanups and storm drain stenciling to prevent contaminants from being dumped into storm drains

8. Finalize Local Government Tracking Spreadsheet - Chair Clark and members noted that it was difficult to navigate government agency websites in order to

locate planning information. Members agreed to continue discussion on the spreadsheet at the May meeting.

Action Item: Staff to revise tracking spreadsheet and arrange for IT staff to place links to various governmental planning departments on the SEC webpage.

9. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report  
Members received a copy of the April 2008 *EMD Update*. Director Siebal shared information on the following topics: (1) EMD Director and SEC Chair meet with City of Rancho Cordova to discuss representation on the Commission; (2) EMD representatives meet with Onsite Wastewater Advisory Committee to review and comment on a draft of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Ordinance; and EMD Food Industry Working Group meets with retail food industry representatives to discuss technical and food program issues. Commissioner White noted he attends the Food Industry meetings and credited EMD with doing a good job of listening to industry concerns.
10. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair Bailey provided a news article from *Newsweek* titled "10 Fixes for the Planet."
11. 2008 Proposed Meeting Topics - Chair Clark and the members of the Commission discussed the following topics for future meetings:
  - City and county efforts to redevelop Brownsfield sites-rail yard
  - Superfund update
  - West Nile Virus update
  - Lifecycle analysis of reusable bags: plastic or paper
  - Sacramento Region Blueprint Transportation and Land Use Study
  - ECOS and CIWMB
  - Teen Speaker from Splash program
12. Correspondence - Secretary Nelson noted that no correspondence had been received.
13. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next SEC meeting will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Environmental Management Department, 8475 Jackson Road, Sacramento, California.