
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

*Robert Bailey, Chair
Mark White, Vice Chair*

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY

*Panama Bartholomy
Matthew Jones
Shane Jiang
Michael Mendez
Marjorie Namba*

*County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Galt
City of Folsom*

SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA *MINUTES*

**MONDAY, September 29, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
8475 JACKSON ROAD, SUITE 200
SACRAMENTO, CA 95826**

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Bailey
The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Crowl
Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, Mark White
Commission members absent: None
Commission staff: Val Siebal, Director and Sarah Crowl, Secretary
Other Guests: John Rogers, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department; Andrew Hughan and James Cropper, California Integrated Waste Management Board

3. Public Comments – Chair Bailey
Chair Bailey announced the availability of speaker slips in the back of the room for audience members wishing to address the Commission.

4. Consent Item – Approval of July 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Motion made by Member Jones, seconded by Member Namba to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting as presented.
Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, Mark White
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5. Appointment of Awards Chair for the 2008 Environmental Excellence Awards (10th annual)

Motion made by Chair Bailey, seconded by Member White to appoint Member Namba to Chair the 2008 Environmental Excellence Awards Committee.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, Mark White

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The Environmental Excellence Awards will be awarded in April 2009; nominations will be reviewed by the Commission in February. Awards Committee volunteers: Mark White and Michael Mendez

6. Environmental Management Department Strategic Plan – Director Siebal

Director Siebal discussed the draft Environmental Management Department Strategic Plan, which was included in Commission member packets.

Questions/Concerns/Comments from the Commission:

1. *With Climate Change expected to bring about drought, what would be the role of EMD in regard to sewage removal/discharge during a water shortage?*

Director Siebal answered that he would consider including this in Strategic Direction 5 of the plan, which includes water recycling programs and cleaning up contaminated wells.

2. *It was suggested that reducing ozone levels in Sacramento be addressed in the plan.*

3. *Regarding cross-training staff to do multiple types of inspections under Strategic Direction 3, it was mentioned that in the past it was a common practice for inspectors to be generalists rather than specialists, and that changed as inspections became more specialized. There was a concern raised about staff losing their expertise in certain areas if they become generalists.*

4. *How will data management and remote telemetry be financed? Director Siebal will look into this.*

5. *A suggestion was made to re-order Strategic Direction items in terms of priority and grouping. The first group would be Developing Internal Capacity and include items 3,4, and 6. The second would be Developing External Capacity, made up of items 2 and 8. The last three items; 1, 5, and 7 would be grouped under an Action area.*

Director Siebal said the final version of EMD's Strategic Plan should be ready in a few months. All comments are appreciated and will be taken under advisement.

7. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report – Val Siebal

Director Siebal discussed the September EMD Update Newsletter e-mailed to Commissioners previously, and announced that EMD's Water Protection Chief, Cecilia Jensen, has accepted the position of Climate Change Officer with the County and will be leaving the department. Although a major loss to EMD, the County is in strong need of a person with her talent to start this program.

8. Menu Labeling and Trans Fat Update – John Rogers, Environmental Management Department

John Rogers, the Environmental Health Chief for EMD presented a slideshow on Trans Fat (Item 9 of the agenda) and Menu Labeling (Item 8). A printout of his Powerpoint

presentation was distributed to each Commissioner.

Assembly Bill 97 requires restaurants eliminate trans fats such as margarine and shortening in food due to their ill effects on health. Bakeries are exempt until 2011. Packaged food items may contain trans fat, but must be labeled as such. The ban takes effect in 2010. EMD will work with the State to develop policies and procedures on trans fat inspections, public outreach, and compliance.

Senate Bill 1420, which was signed by the Governor on September 30, requires franchise restaurants disclose nutritional information for menu items. Information may be provided in a brochure, menu board, or table tent. The number or range of calories must be listed next to each food item on the menu by 2011. This will provide the public the opportunity to educate themselves on their food choices in an effort to discourage the rising obesity rate.

10. Sharp's Update – Andrew Hughan, California Integrated Waste Management Board

Andrew Hughan, Public Information Officer for the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) gave a presentation on the Sharps law that took effect this month. A printout of his presentation, brochures titled "Caifornians Need Your Help!" and "A Guide to Syringe Disposal"; and a press release were distributed to the Commission.

The Sharps law (SB 1305) requires hypodermic needles be disposed of in bio-hazard containers and taken or shipped to an authorized hazardous waste facility. The purpose of the law is to protect sanitation workers and the general public from being pricked by needles in landfills; however, there is no strict enforcement of proper sharps disposal at this time.

In light of this, CIWMB is engaged in outreach campaigns to inform the public on where they may dispose of needles and to encourage pharmacies and clinics to offer Sharps disposal to their patients. Grants are available to collection facilities through CIWMB to pay for sharps containers and disposal.

The Committee discussed how they may assist with increasing the number of facilities that offer Sharps disposal. A proposal to require local pharmacies to take back the needles they sell was suggested. Also suggested is an outreach effort by the SEC, in partnership with the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) to educate and encourage area pharmacies to offer Sharps disposal. Letters and Presentations to the County and City could be made to encourage this effort, obtain grant funding, and increase support for an ordinance requiring Sharps disposal by pharmacies. Mr. Hughan offered to make his presentation to the County Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made by Member Mendez, seconded by Member Bartholomy for Vice Chair White to work with PHAB in drafting a letter encouraging cities in the County to step up outreach for pharmacies to dispose of the Sharps they dispense; to apply for grants from the CIWMB; and to educate the public about the Sharps disposal law.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Michael Mendez, Marjorie Namba, Mark White

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

11. SWA Update – Dennis Green, Environmental Management Department

A handout on the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Business Recycling Ordinance Implementation Update was distributed to the Commission. Director Siebal filled in for Dennis Green, discussing the major points of the handout.

In April 2007, the Sacramento Regional Waste Authority (SWA) selected EMD to implement Ordinance 17, which mandates recycling by area businesses. Implementation efforts include informing businesses of the ordinance, sending warning letters, and charging fines for non-compliance. Enforcement actions have been published in the Sacramento Bee and the Business Journal.

12. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair White

Vice Chair White mentioned the following articles, which were distributed in commissioners' packets:

"Calif. Field Goes from Rush to Reflection of Global Limits" – Washington Post

"Recycle or pay price, Sacramento County rule enforcers tell businesses" – Sacramento Bee

"Sierra warming: Climate change puts heat on high country" – Sacramento Bee

13. 2008 Proposed Meeting Topics – Chair Bailey and Vice Chair White

An updated meeting topic schedule was e-mailed to commission members in August.

Topic suggestions for the November SEC meeting: Folsom Hazardous Materials, EIR for Highway 50 Annexation, Folsom Dam drought

14. Subcommittee to Identify Meeting Topics for 2009 – Chair Bailey

Members Namba, Mendez, and Jones volunteered to be on the Subcommittee for 2009 meeting topics.

Topic suggestion for January 2009 – presentation by Sacramento County Climate Change Officer Cecilia Jensen, Update on wood burning ban

15. Correspondence

Secretary Crawl noted that no correspondence had been received.

16. Commissioner Comments

The Commission discussed taking a tour of Mather. Member Jiang will choose a few dates in October and coordinate with Commission members and Secretary Crawl on scheduling the tour.

17. Adjournment – Next Meeting: October 20, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

This meeting is being audio taped in its entirety and is available at the Environmental Management Department office. Agendas are posted in the offices of the City of Sacramento and Sacramento County and also on the EMD Website at: emd.saccounty.net. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.