
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Robert Bailey, Chair
Mark White, Vice Chair
Panama Bartholomy
Kristin Garcia
Shane Jiang
Matthew Jones
George "Buzz" Link
Marjorie Namba
Rachael Phillips

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY

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

SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, March 23, 2009
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
Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call – Vicki Kloock, Secretary
Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang, Matthew Jones, Marjorie Namba, Buzz Link, Rachael Phillips and Kristin Garcia.
Commission members absent: Mark White
Commission staff: Val Siebal, EMD Director and Vicki Kloock, Secretary
Guests: Dennis Green, Environmental Compliance Division Chief, Dept. of Environmental Management, County of Sacramento; and Tammy Derby, Code Enforcement Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Services, County of Sacramento.
3. Public Comments – Chair Bailey
There were no public comments.
4. Consent Item – Approval of January 26, 2009, Meeting Minutes
Chair Bailey noted that the attending commissioners should have included Mark White.
A motion was made by Marjorie Namba and seconded by George Link to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as corrected.
Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristin Garcia, Shane Jiang, Buzz Link, Marjorie Namba, Rachael Phillips, and Matthew Jones
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mark White
5. Code Enforcement Update – Tammy Derby, REHS, Program Manager, County Code Enforcement Division, Dept. of Neighborhood Services, County of Sacramento
Director Siebal introduced Tammy Derby. Ms. Derby presented a PowerPoint slideshow entitled "County Code Enforcement". A hard copy was included in the meeting packet.
During her presentation, Ms. Derby advised that she has worked for the County for 19 yrs. which includes 16 yrs. with the Environmental Management Dept. The codes that they enforce are the CA Health & Safety Code, the CA Vehicle Code, the Sacramento County Zoning Code,

the Sacramento County Nuisance Code, the Sacramento County Housing Code and the Sacramento County Dangerous Building Code. Common violations include yard parking, major automobile repair and the collection of junk and rubbish. Because they deal with so many hoarders, it is sometimes hard to define what 'junk' is. When they come across substandard properties, they deal first with priority violations which include surfacing sewage, lack of water, lack of hot water, lack of heat, collapsing roof or ceiling and lack of required utilities. The average costs of an abatement process is about \$250,000 per year for the County. Abandoned vehicles is one area where they can get state-funding as this is a danger as well as a nuisance. Illegal dumping is a big problem in the County, but they recently received a \$500,000 grant from Waste Management. They have purchased surveillance cameras to catch perpetrators. They are moved around to the different 'hot spots' where dumping recurs often. There is also a \$250.00 reward system for information that has been established by the County. In regard to enforcement, they now have a process where the fees can be added to your property tax. Over the last 3 years, they have worked successfully toward reducing the caseload of their inspectors. There are presently 4500 cases open at any time.

A question and answer session followed Ms. Derby's presentation.

Q: Buzz Link – Why does the law require that non-porous paving material be used (for yard parking) as it complicates and increases stormwater run-off problems?

A. That is an interesting question as this environmental issue was obviously not considered in writing the code. We will have to look into that.

Q: Rachael Phillips – Are banks required to register foreclosed/abandoned/empty houses with the County?

A. No, we do not presently have that ordinance, but we are working with Senator Cox's office to develop such a state law.

Chair Bailey thanked Ms. Derby for her presentation.

6. EMD Multi-Family Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Ordinance – Dennis Green, Chief, EMD Environmental Compliance Division

Director Siebal introduced Dennis Green. Mr. Green shared information on the new multi-family residences' Solid Waste Authority (SWA) Ordinance that is going before the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors (BOS). Both ordinances (city and county) are being presented by SWA, a joint powers authority that regulates all matters related to solid waste. Mr. Green advised that the BOS issued an ordinance that made business recycling mandatory. They have tried doing it in multi-family units in the past, but have been unsuccessful. The present proposal is slated to go before the SWA Board on April 9, 2009. They will be asked to repeal Title 2 and amend Title 4 to incorporate multi-family units with businesses. Sect. 4.01.030(P) defines multi-family units as having 5 or more residences. They will be asked to separate recycling materials from others and to have an agreement with their hauler or a self-hauling document. The owner of the property will not be responsible for taking care of separating the garbage. He/she will just need to make the proper receptacles available and notify his tenants that they are available. If the residents don't comply, then EMD/SWA will just have to work through it. It will be too big an enforcement issue to go after all non-compliance. Many of the same requirements apply to multi-family units as to businesses. Mr. Green explained that it is a tough time to increase recycling because the recycling markets are way down including the international market. EMD is being given the authority to carry this out even though it is a SWA ordinance. Mr. Green asked the SEC members if they would be willing to write a letter of endorsement for this ordinance.

A question and answer session followed Mr. Green's presentation.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – What is the next step?

A. This will be new territory for EMD so we will probably have to develop new software.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – What is being done in the way of an outreach effort?

A. None yet until the ordinance is passed.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – How will the rates affect us?

- A. *We make money on tonnage. There is not a lot of tonnage in household waste. It will probably only increase about 1-2%. What it will impact more is the landfills.*
- Q. *Shane Jiang – What will this cost the property owner?*
- A. *There is no fee involved. EMD will be reimbursed by SWA. Where it may cost the property owner money is in contracting with their hauler as they will have to add a recycle bin. However, because their garbage is down and recycling is cheaper, it is possible they will save money.*
- Q. *Rachael Phillips offers a critique of the ordinance – Sect. 4.01.150 only requires property owner to notify their tenants once. She would suggest that this be an annual requirement.*
- A. *That is a good idea. This ordinance will require modifications as time goes by and we see where the problems are.*

A motion was made Panama Bartholomy and seconded by Marjorie Namba to forward a letter in support of the Multi-Family Solid Waste Authority Ordinance to the County Board of Supervisors and the city counsels.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristin Garcia, Shane Jiang, Buzz Link, Marjorie Namba, Rachael Phillips, and Matthew Jones

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mark White

EMD Director Val Siebal agreed to draft the letter of support.

- 7. Review Environmental Excellence Award Applications – Awards Committee Chair Namba and Committee Member Jiang

Val Siebal introduced Awards Chair Namba who explained the process that the committee used to determine their selections. Ms. Namba and Member Jiang then gave a short description of each of the nominees. Ms. Namba then advised the Commission of the recommendations of the committee for who should receive a plaque and who should receive some sort of letter or certificate. These recommendations were discussed and Member Bartholomy suggested that the recognition given to the nominee, Sacramento Dept. of Facilities Planning, Architecture and Real Estate (FPARE), be changed from a plaque to a letter. Member Jones made the same suggestion for the Arden Middle School Science Olympiad. Compliments to the committee were made by Member Bartholomy and Member Link. A motion was called for.

A motion was made by Chair Bailey and seconded by Marjorie Namba to accept the award recommendations as made except for changing Sacramento FPARE's recognition from a plaque to a letter.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristin Garcia, Shane Jiang, Buzz Link, Marjorie Namba, Rachael Phillips, and Matthew Jones.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mark White

- 8. Review Proposed SEC Budget For The Fiscal Year 2009-10 – Director Siebal, EMD

Director Siebal shared that the City of Sacramento is looking closely at the Commission's expenses and that some cities have withdrawn their support of similar committees in other communities so our budget was looked at closely for next year. All costs for employee recognition, food or catering, website enhancement and security services have been removed from the budget. The cost for the secretary has also been trimmed. Member Bartholomy stated that honorariums have been given up by the members of the City

Council and asked if members of the SEC would be willing to do so also. Director Siebal offered to look into what was involved in doing this.

A motion was made by Matthew Jones and seconded by Rachael Phillips to accept the budget as presented.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristen Garcia, Shane Jiang, Buzz Link, Marjorie Namba, Rachael Phillips and Matthew Jones.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mark White

9. Discuss Participation in Creek Week Clean-up – Chair Bailey

Chair Bailey advised that Creek Week this year is from April 15th – April 25th. He stated that last year we had T-shirts made but that they were very expensive so we will not do that again this year. He, however, has contacted the Sacramento Area Creeks Council and asked about becoming an organizational member. The Council is meeting tonight and could discuss the matter. If this opportunity becomes available, Chair Bailey suggests we join (membership approximately \$50.00) as we will then be on an emailing list and our logo will be on their website.

A motion was made by Kristen Garcia and seconded by George Link to join the Sacramental Area Creeks Council as an organizational member when the opportunity becomes available.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristen Garcia, Shane Jiang, Buzz Link, Marjorie Namba, Rachael Phillips and Matthew Jones.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mark White

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

Director Siebal noted that the Environmental Management Dept.'s most recent Newsletter is included in their meeting packet for their review. There was no other new news to share.

10. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair White

Secretary Kloock advised the Commission members that Vice Chair White, knowing that he was going to be absent this evening, sent two articles for inclusion in their meeting packet. They are as follows: (1) From the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) News Release website – "EPA Proposes First National Reporting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and (2) From the EPA Climate Change website – "Proposed Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule". Secretary Kloock shared that Vice Chair White felt this was going to be an increasingly important matter.

11. 2009 Meeting Topics Review – Chair Bailey

It was agreed to move the June election of the new Chair and Vice-Chair to November 2009.

It was agreed that the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) be invited back to speak at the July 20th televised meeting as their appearance at the February 23rd meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

12. Correspondence

Secretary Kloock noted that two e-mails had been received on the SEC website from 1) Rick Watterson of the Clean Water Pipe Council introducing himself and the Council as a new advocacy group to promote legislation banning the use of PVC water piping materials, and 2) an

invitation from the Sacramento Committee Water For People to attend a fundraiser to celebrate World Water Day 2009.

Members expressed a desire to receive copies of all email correspondence. Secretary Kloock advised that she would do so from this point on and would email them copies of the two named above.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bartholomy advised that the City of Sacramento has cut the position of Chief Building Official from their budget and that Bob Chase and Keith Roberts have been laid off. However, Bob Chase has been hired by the County of Sacramento.

Chair Bailey reminded the commission members about the e-mail address on the SEC web site.

14. Adjournment – Next Meeting, April 20, 2009 – Board Chambers at 700 H Street (TELEVISED)
Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.