
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 AGENDA

MONDAY, April 20, 2009
6:30 p.m.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' CHAMBERS
700 H Street, 1st FLOOR

ITEM:

1. Call to Order – Chair Bailey

Meeting was called to order at 6:29p.m.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Kloock

Commission members Present: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Shane Jiang, Kristen Garcia, Matthew Jones, and Mark White

Commission members absent: Marjorie Namba

Commission staff: Val Siebal, EMD Director and Vicki Kloock, Secretary

Guests: Alta Tura, President, Sacramento Area Creeks Council; Walt Siefert, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates; Graham Brownstein, Executive Director, Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS); John Woodling, Executive Director, Regional Water Authority; Winners of the 2008 Environmental Recognition Awards.

3. Public Comments – Chair Bailey

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Item – Approval of March 23, 2009, Meeting Minutes

No changes were noted necessary to the minutes.

A motion was made by Panama Bartholomy and seconded by Rachael Phillips to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2009, meeting as presented.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, Kristin Garcia, Shane Jiang, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Mark White and Matthew Jones.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Marjorie Namba

5. Sacramento Earth Day 2009 – Graham Brownstein, Executive Director, Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS)

Director Siebal introduced Graham Brownstein. Mr. Brownstein presented a short PowerPoint slideshow on this year's Sacramento Earth Day 2009 celebration. Mr. Brownstein advised that ECOS took over the coordination of Earth Day a few years ago and moved it from the grounds of Sac State to Southside Park. It is a free event taking place on Sunday, April 26, 2009. There will be over 100 booths on many different things affecting the earth. There will also be free music performances, interactive activities, demonstrations of solar powered vehicles, free parking under the freeway in Lot 38. This year they will be emphasizing the number of things we can do for the environment that is also good for your pocket book. For the first time this year, they will be doing this in conjunction with an event called "Wildflower Wonders" which is very popular and has its own following which should bring more visitors in. There will also be free valet bike parking.

A question and answer session followed Mr. Brownstein's presentation:

Comment: Panama Bartholomy – Thank you for your presentation and sponsorship of the event.

Q. Mark White – How many attended last year?

A. Our best guess is 5,000 over the course of the day. I estimate that there will be a bigger crowd this year due to their advertising campaign, the addition of the wildflower event and the need for free things to do due to the economy.

Q. Rachael Phillips – How long has Sacramento had an Earth Day celebration?

A. At least since the early 1980's.

6. Creek Week 2009 – Alta Tura, President, Sacramento Area Creeks Council

Director Siebal introduced Alta Tura. Ms. Tura spoke to the Commission members about the upcoming Creek Week for 2009. She began by thanking Graham Brownstein for ECOS's cooperation in moving their event to Sunday the 26th as the Creek Week finale celebration occurs on Saturday the 25th. This way they did not both occur on the same day. Ms. Tura advised the Commission that Creek Week started last Wednesday and that the 25th is the big clean-up day. The volunteers will start at 9a.m. and work until Noon. They are then all invited to the celebration at American River College (ARC) Campus until 2p.m. She advised that anyone still interested in participating can call (916) 454-4544 or go to www.creekweek.net on the internet to sign up. She stated that we would all be surprised to see what goes in our creeks and therefore eventually ends up in the oceans.

A question and answer session followed Ms. Tura's presentation:

Q. Kristen Garcia – What creeks do you clean up?

A. Any and all of them in Sacramento County from Isleton to downtown Sacramento to Folsom.

Q. Rachael Phillips – What is your jurisdiction? Is it just creeks that flow into the American or the Sacramento?

A. We do both. We have even added Galt this year, but not Elk Grove as they have their own creek clean-up on the same day. We do the Arcade, the Steelhead, the Laguna, Cripple Creek and many, many more!

Q. Matthew Jones – I have participated as a volunteer in Creek Week for the past 3 years and would like to encourage everyone to do so. You will be amazed at what you find and you can really see the fruits of your labor. Are we making any progress getting rid of red sesbania?

A. We will never be able to get rid of it completely, but because of the treatment every year, it is getting more manageable.

Q. Mark White – Some communities provide free bins because it is good flood control. Do you get your disposal bins free?

A. No, but we get a very good rate from the hauler. We have partnerships with lots of government organizations who help us.

7. Bike Month 2009 – Walt Siefert, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Walt Siefert. Mr. Siefert made a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission and advised them that "Bike to Work Day" started in the 1970's and has turned into "MaysBikeMonth.com" This is not something that the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates run. It is a national event, but they do participate in it. Mr. Siefert noted that the big, new development for this year is the enactment of the Bicycle Commuter Act which provides a tax-free benefit to employees & employers if this program is offered. This went into effect on January 1, 2009. There are 2 major events during the May celebration. One is on May 1st which is the press conference and kick-off ride. And the other is May 22nd which is the Bike Fest on the west steps of the Capitol. The main point of MaysBikeMonth is the on-line competition to attempt to accumulate a million miles of bicycle riding.

A question and answer session followed Mr. Siefert's presentation:

Comment by Mark White – Congratulations for keeping up bike advocacy so consistently for so long.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – I second my fellow Commissioner's congratulations. Who are the leading employers of bicyclists?

A. CalTrans

Q. Matthew Jones – Can you elaborate on the bike tax credit?

A. There is an IRS brochure on it. Employers can set aside an extra \$20.00 for employees. It works similarly to a transit pass subsidy.

8. Update on California Drought Conditions – John Woodling, Executive Director, Regional Water authority (RWA)

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Woodling who made a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission (see attached). Mr. Woodling advised that we are presently at about average for precipitation, but low on snow pack. He state that where we are in trouble is our reservoir storage levels. Folsom Reservoir is not bad, but that is not necessarily good for us as the water stored there is sent elsewhere. The RWA is presently working to get more consistent language between agencies as their levels all mean something different. The present availability of water is affected by more than local issues as it is partly a hydrological drought and partly a political/legislative one. We are also affected by the Delta Vision Plan

A questions and answer session followed Mr. Woodling's presentation:

Q. Mark White – What is a nigh level of conservation considered to be?

A. 20% is a drought response.

Q. Mark White – Do you see water as going to exceed even our petroleum problems?

A. There is presently a great deal of political battling going on in Congress. We have the ability to take care of it if we would let the water scientists do their job, but it is very affected by the political control exerted.

Q. Mark White – Do we need more dams?

A. Not necessarily. What we really need is more storage.

Q. Rachael Phillips – In regard to consistency, do you foresee any legislation adopting statewide parameters? And, do you think this is good?

A. It is hard to apply rules to a State as large as California. Regions need to manage water better so that the State won't stop in.

Q. George Link – Thank you for connecting the dots by incorporating the state, regional and local perspective. How do local purveyors respond to changes in precipitation?

A. They have to deal on many levels.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – Statewide landscaping accounts for 50% of water use. Is that the same statistic in Sacramento County?

A. Yes

Q. Panama Bartholomy – Has the RWA ever considered a Model Landscaping Ordinance?

A. No

Q. Panama Bartholomy – What is the most cost effective way to get to 20% conservation?

A. To deal with it on a local level. Make it personal. Don't use water you don't need. Maybe use recycled water.

Q. Panama Bartholomy – With landscaping use of water being such a large percentage, are you seeing any movement toward legislation on new construction?

A. Every water purveyor will do a water audit. The present financial climate isn't conducive to money incentives.

9. Awarding of 2008 Environmental Recognition Awards – Commissioner Marjorie Namba

As Commissioner Namba could not be here this evening, Commissioner White made the introductions and gave out the awards to the recipients as follows by category:

A) Voluntarily Exceeding –

Plaque Winner: EHS-NET Drinking Water Program

B) Leadership –

Plaque Winner: Natomas Unified School District

Plaque Winner: River Friendly Landscape Coalition

Certificate Winner: Sacramento County Water Agency

Certificate Winner: Sacramento County Airport System Maintenance Division

Certificate Winner: SMUD Avian Protection Plan & Program

C) Demonstration of Using Tools –

Plaque Winner: California Franchise Tax Board

Plaque Winner: Federico Beauty Institute

Certificate Winner: Sacramento County Facility Planning, Architecture & Real Estate Dept.

Certificate Winner: Kikkoman Foods, Inc.

Certificate Winner: Glumac

D) Education/Outreach –

Plaque Winner: Sacramento Sustainable Business Program

Plaque Winner: SMUD Youth Energy Summit

Plaque Winner: Arden Middle School Science Olympiad Program

Plaque Winner: Sacramento Green Partnership

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

Director Siebal referred the Commissioners to the attached April 2009 EMD Update.

11. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair White

None to report.

12. 2009 Meeting Topics Review – Chair Bailey

It was determined to add the following topics: 1) Recycle Bank.com, 2) Stormwater/Pesticide use/Run-off, and 3) EPA Greenhouse Gas Emission Legislation. Have some come from the Air Board to tell us how it will impact us.

13. Correspondence – Secretary Kloock

Secretary Kloock advised that there were 3 pieces of correspondence attached for the Commissioners' review: 1) A letter from Daniel Mendonsa asking to appear before the Commission, 2) A letter from the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors advising that Mark White's and Shane Jiang's terms will be expiring in July, and 3) A cc: of a letter from the City of Folsom to the Cities of Galt and Isleton advising that Robert Bailey's term will end in June of 2009.

14. Commissioner Comments

None

15. Meeting Adjourned – 8:30p.m.

APPROVED 5/18/09