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# SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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*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 Sacramento  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt*

## SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, June 22, 2009  
6:00p.m.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
Dept. of Environmental Management  
10590 Armstrong Avenue, Main Conference Room B  
Mather, CA 95655

### ITEM

1. Call to Order - Chair Bailey

*Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m.*

2. Roll Call - Secretary Kloock

*Commission Members Present: Robert Bailey, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Matthew Jones and Mark White*

*Commission Members Absent: Marjorie Namba, Panama Bartholomy, Shane Jiang and Kristin Garcia.*

*Guests: Dennis Green, Division Manager, Environmental Compliance Division, EMD; Pat Quinn, Program Manager, Dept. of Waste Management & Recycling, Municipal Services Agency, County of Sacramento; Rajesh Lathigara, Solid Waste Planner II, Dept. of Waste Management & Recycling, Municipal Services, County of Sacramento; Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director in Charge of the Division of Water Quality, California State Water Resources Control Board; and Burke Lucy, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, California Integrated Waste Management Board*

3. Public Comments - Chair Bailey

*There were no public comments.*

4. Consent Item - Approval of May 18, 2009, Meeting Minutes

*No changes were note necessary to the minutes.*

A motion was made by Rachael Phillips and seconded by Matthew Jones to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2009, meeting as presented.

Ayes: Robert Bailey, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Matthew Jones and Mark White.

Noes: None

Abstain None

Absent: Marjorie Namba, Panama Bartholomy, Kristin Garcia and Shane Jiang.

5. Further Discussion on Question of Support for Amendment to Below Ground Tank Ordinance - Available For Questions: Dennis Green, Chief, Environmental Compliance Division, Environmental Management Department, County of Sacramento

*Director Siebal introduced Dennis Green. Mr. Green advised the Commission that Rachael Phillips had reviewed the ordinance and given us her comments. He also advised that the Environmental Compliance Division had had two workshops, which drew a total of 75 participants. He stated that they were hoping to have this on the Board agenda for July 28, 2009, and respectfully requested a letter of support prior to the end of June. Mr. Green advised that a copy of the ordinance with the changes in red ink was included in the meeting packet and made some further clarifications.*

*The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.*

*Q. Mark White - With regard to the State budget, have you had indications that funding will be cut?*

*A. No, we are only affected by reduced income due to the economy.*

*Q. Mark White - I was surprised to hear that we still had single-wall tanks.*

*A. Yes, they were grandfathered in and they are a big problem. We envision going back to the Board of Supervisors with regard to single-wall tanks. Therefore, please ignore anything to do with single-wall tanks in the ordinance. Concentrate on 6.34.027, the corrective action.*

*Q. Mark White - Are you going to workshop 6.34.026?*

*A. Yes. We expect it to generate a lot of discussion.*

After discussion among the Commissioners, it was decided they wanted to do more review of the amendment and bring it back for further discussion at the next meeting on Monday, July 20, 2009.

6. Greencycle/Composting - Pat Quinn, Program Manager, Dept. of Waste Management & Recycling, Municipal Services Agency, County of Sacramento

*Director Siebal introduced Mr. Quinn. Mr. Quinn spoke to the Commission about the Sacramento Region Solid Waste Authority's (SWA) Greencycle program. He advised that this has been an ongoing effort for a number years. They want to build a local composting spot to handle local greenwaste. There is not a lot of information about long-term costs. SWA will want the public sector to control the site, but to have the marketing handled by a private company. Mr. Quinn advised that they have been going through an extensive siting process which has faced many obstacles, but that they hope to have a draft EIR by August of this year. For more information, please see [www.sacgreencycle.com](http://www.sacgreencycle.com).*

*The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.*

*Q. Matthew Jones - Where do you truck the product?*

*A. It mostly goes 3 places: 1) to alternative daily cover, 2) biomass conversion, and 3) Compost.*

*Q. Matthew Jones - Do all residences in the County have a greenwaste bin?*

*A. In the unincorporated areas - yes. In the City of Sacramento - No. In most other cities - Yes.*

*Comment. Mark White - It is critical for us to have our own compost site and have control over where it is trucked to.*

*Reply. Pat Quinn - There is significant traffic involved in this.*

*Q. Mark White - Would you like us to send a letter of support?*

*A. I would like it in about 6 months. I would be happy to come back and talk to you about the CEQA document. The CEQA document will be huge. Not only are there analyses of 4 locations, but with 4 technologies.*

**All the Commissioners agreed that they would like another presentation.**

7. **Pharmaceutical Waste in Water - Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director in Charge of the Division of Water Quality, California State Water Resources Control Board**

*Director Siebal introduced Darrin Polhemus who gave the Commission a PowerPoint update on the present state of pharmaceuticals in our water resources. Mr. Polhemus explained that the State Water Board promulgates water quality standards to protect "beneficial uses" designated by the Regional Water Boards. Water quality standards for surface waters currently focus on very specific chemicals. There are 129 designated as "priority pollutants". This list was developed 30 years ago. He advised that they would be hearing much about CEC's (chemicals of emerging concern) which are all chemicals new to scientists since this list was established. He explained that these chemicals have probably been around, but were just not detectable until now when we can test at a level as low as parts/billion. Please see the PowerPoint for further information.*

*The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.*

**Robert Bailey - It would be nice if a Commissioner could follow this topic.**

**George Link - I would be happy to.**

8. **Sharp Wastes 2009 Update - Burke Lucy, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, California Integrated Waste Management Board**

*Director Siebal introduced Mr. Lucy who spoke to the Commission about Sharps. He explained that sharps are anything delivered under the skin and that when you are talking about 'home' sharps that it is mostly about the treatment of diabetes. He informed us that the city of San Luis Obispo was the first place pass an ordinance that states if you sell sharps that you have to take them back for recycling. This has only been in place since last September. Sacramento does not offer free disposal. Mr. Lucy spoke to the Commission about 3 pieces of legislation: 1) SB135 which has passed and no longer allows home sharps to be thrown away in the garbage, 2) SB26, still pending, which would deal with where this could be disposed of, but it has been shelved until next year, and 3) SB486, also still pending, which says the manufacturers must post a plan on their website about how to dispose of the sharps purchased from them. This bill is presently in committee.*

*The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.*

*Q. Rachael Phillips - Why would a pharmacy want to volunteer to collect sharps?*

*A. Some pharmacies consider the environmental aspects to be paramount. It really depends on what part of the State you are in. San Francisco is much more responsible about this than inland pharmacies.*

*Q. Rachael Phillips - Are they governed by a regulatory agency if they decide to accept sharps?*

*A. Not at present. Some people (lawyers) think that, if it is not specifically required by law, then it is against the law.*

*Q. George Link - What is the costs of disposing sharps for the pharmacies?*

*A. Val Siebal - I will find out.*

9. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report - Director Val Siebal, EMD

*Director Siebal advised the Commission that the June 2009 EMD Update was in their meeting packet.*

10. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair White

*Vice Chair White advised the Commission that there were 4 articles attached for their review: 1) "What If Global-Warming Fears Are Overblown?", CNNMoney.com, 5/14/09, 2) "Federal Ruling Helps Fish, But Water Costs Feared", Sac Bee, 6/05/09, 3) "20 Years After Sacramento Voted to Shut Rancho Seco, SMUD Has Diversified Energy Sources", Sac Bee, 6/07/09, and 4) "S. F. OKs Toughest Recycling Law In U.S.", SF Gate, 6/10/09.*

11. 2009 Meeting Topics Review - Chair Robert Bailey

*It was agreed that the Landfill Buffer Use By HEAP-DERA topic be moved to the November 2009 agenda.*

12. Correspondence

*Secretary Kloock advised that two pieces of correspondence had been received by the SEC and that copies were in the meeting packet as follows:*

- 1) A public meeting notice from the Sacramento County Planning Dept. regarding the Keifer Landfill Buffer Planning Project.*
- 2) An email from Yvonne Rincon, the Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Sacramento, requesting a meeting.*

13. Commissioner Comments

*It was suggested that meeting notices be sent to the Cities of Folsom, Isleton, Galt, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove along with the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento.*

14. Adjournment - Next Meeting, July 20, 2009 - 6:30p.m. - BOS Chambers

*Meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.*