
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

*Robert Bailey, Chair
Mark White, Vice Chair
Panama Bartholomy
Diana Parker
Rachael Phillips
Matthew Jones
George "Buzz" Link
Marjorie Namba*

*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, July 20, 2009, 6:30p.m.

TELEVISED

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
Board of Supervisors' Chambers
700 H Street, 1st Floor
Sacramento, Ca 95814

ITEM

1. Call to Order - Chair Bailey

Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m.

2. Roll Call - Secretary Kloock

Commission Members Present: Robert Bailey, Diana Parker, Marjorie Namba, Mark White, George "Buzz" Link, Rachael S. Phillips, Panama Bartholomy, and Matthew Jones

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests: Jeffery Tardagent, Resident, Charles Potts, Resident; Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Joseph Angeles, Special Assistant to Supervisor Dickinson, Dennis Green, Chief, Environmental Compliance Division, Environmental Management Dept., County of Sacramento, Claudia Goss, Communication & Media Officer, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Emily Butler, Executive Director, SPLASH Program, David Brown, Manager, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District and Richard Shaw, Environmental Specialists Supervisor, City of Folsom, CA

3. Public Comments - Chair Bailey

The publicly televised notice was read by Chair Bailey.

4. Consent Item - Approval of June 22, 2009, Meeting Minutes

No changes were noted necessary to the minutes.

A motion was made by George Link and seconded by Rachael Phillips to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2009, meeting as presented.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Diana Parker, Panama Bartholomy

Absent: None

5. Funding of Environmental Study For Regulation of Plastic Bags - Sacramento County Supervisor Roger Dickinson, District 1

Director Siebal introduced Supervisor Dickinson. Mr. Dickinson advised the Commission that there are 14 billion plastic bags put into circulation per year in the State of California and that many of these do not end up in the landfill. They are responsible for 1,000 marine animals' deaths per year. The County's solid waste person estimates that we spend about \$50,000/year chasing bags around Keifer Landfill. The bags have become ubiquitous while good and useful alternatives exist. There are reusable bags - which can also be plastic - although cloth is recommended. What is being proposed is that a suitable lead-in period be required for the use of recyclable bags that are compostable or reusable. This would only apply to larger grocery stores and pharmacies. Smaller ones would be exempt. This is a content neutral ordinance. It is about its recyclability. In regard to the procedural element, there is an item on the Board of Supervisors' agenda tomorrow that is not to put an ordinance in place because other cities have been challenged because they did not do an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). What Sup. Dickinson is asking for is that Sacramento County put up \$5,000.00 toward a Master Environmental Assessment (MEA) that is being contributed to by many different cities and counties. He is asking that the money come from the Solid Waste Fund, not the General Fund. He is here this evening to ask for a letter of support from the SEC.

The Commissioners asked several questions.

Q. Rachael Phillips - If an MEA is funded, does that mean it would be a NEPA review and not a CEQA review.

A. To my knowledge, there is only a CEQA review and then each jurisdiction.

Q. Rachael Phillips - What does the County anticipate as a further obligation?

A. An MEA should meet the EIR requirement according to the courts.

Q. Rachael Phillips - So a \$5,000.00 outlay at this point is pretty cheap compared to doing our own EIR?

A. Yes.

Q. Mark White - Will it apply to other businesses that use a lot of plastic bags.

A. Not in this study, but it is a logical broader application. It is fair to say that this is an incremental approach.

Q. Mark White - An MEA is a complex topic and could include greenhouse gas emissions. What is the total money being spent?

A. \$75,000.00 Jones and Stokes would be the contractor.

Statement: Panama Bartholomy - Thank you for taking this forward.

Q. Diana Parker - Because most of these businesses are regional or statewide, has there been any involvement by the State Integrated Waste Management Board?

A. No, but I don't know why.

Q. George Link - I am very supportive of this. Who are the other jurisdictions involved?

A. Los Angeles County, Manhattan Beach, San Jose Palo Alto, plus 6 more.

A motion was made by Panama Bartholomy and seconded by Rachael Phillips that the SEC prepare a letter of support for this project.

AYES: Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Diana Parker

Marjorie Namba, Matthew Jones and Mark White.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6. Further Discussion on Question of Support For Amendment to Below Ground Tank Ordinance - Dennis Green, Chief, Environmental Compliance Division, Environmental Management Dept., County of Sacramento

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Green who stated that Rachael Phillips had made five suggestions in regard to the wording of the Underground Storage Tank Ordinance and all had been incorporated but one - on the description of a QAQC plan.

One question was asked:

Q. Mark White - Could you do a two minute review of the ordinance as this is the third time back on it?

A. Dennis provided a short explanation including that it gives us more enforcement power to use against those last recalcitrant hangers on.

A motion was made by Mark White that we send a strong letter of support to the Board plus have the Chair speak in to this in front of the Board. This is seconded by Panama Bartholomy.

AYES - Robert Bailey, Panama Bartholomy, George Link, Rachael Phillips, Marjorie Namba, Matthew Jones and Mark White.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Diana Parker

ABSENT: None

7. SPLASH Program Overview - Claudia Goss, Communication & Media Officer, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Emily Butler, SPLASH Program Executive Director

Director Siebal introduced Claudia Goss who described her department as one of 3 entities that support SPLASH then turned the program over to Ms. Butler who stated that she believed that education is the backbone of a person's environmental outlook. SPLASH is now in its 12th year of supplying watershed information to elementary school children. A PowerPoint presentation was made on the program. The SPLASH Mission is "Helping children understand and value their natural world through scientific investigation and outdoor exploration." There are programs inside the classroom and out as well as after-school programs. They have educated over 20,000 students since 2001.

The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.

Q. Margie Namba - How do you staff your programs?

A. We have a number of seasonal part-time staff especially when the vernal pools are active. We are presently waiting for 501(c)(3) designation.

Q. Rachel Phillips - How do you target the schools?

A. We mostly do City of Sacramento schools, but we also take County schools and West Sacramento schools as well.

A motion was made by Mark White that a letter of support be written to the three (3) agencies that are presently funding SPLASH continue to do so. This was seconded by George Link.

Matthew Jones offered to write the letters.

8. Mosquito Abatement Program Update - David Brown, Manager, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Brown who spoke to the Commission about the challenges facing the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District which consists of 2,000 square miles and 1.6 million people. The Sacramento area offers a large agricultural base for mosquito reproduction including all the rice flooding. We have a great deal of natural wetland resources. We also are unique in the number of vernal pools we have here. While unblemished vernal pools don't produce mosquitos, damaged ones, by cattle, etc. do. The biggest problem they are facing now has to do with all the foreclosures of homes with swimming pools that are no longer attended to. The industry calls them "urban wetlands". Water management is key to controlling the mosquito population. They would rather educate people about water management than to have to spray for mosquitos. Bio control for swimming pools is working. The District has had to treat over 5,000 pools this year using mosquito fish. You also need to control your greenwaste by putting it in containers, not throwing it in the street. The best thing to protect yourself with is DEET. Our website can be found at: www.fightthebite.net.

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Q. George Link - How do you chose your pesticides?

A. We work with the State Water Board.

Comment. Mark White - Thank you for educating us as to how to change our behavior.

Q. Rachael White - Some places are adopting ordinances that foreclosed homes must have their pools drained. How involved are you with the local jurisdictions.

A. We do have authority to charge \$1,000.00 a day for people that will not cooperate, but the problem with that is that the true 'financial' owner/lender can be very difficult to identify.

9. City of Folsom Construction and Demolition Debris Program - Rick Shaw, Environmental Specialist Supervisor, City of Folsom

Director Siebal introduced Rick Shaw who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Folsom's Construction & Demolition Recycling Program.

Q. Does any project that is going to cost more than \$100,000. subject to this?

A. Yes

Comment: Mark White - You are due a great deal of credit for being the first city with this level of clean-up rules.

10. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair White

Vice Chair White advised the Commission that there were 2 articles attached for their review: 1) "Overhaul of Food Safety Rules in the Works", The Washington Post, 7/08/09, 2) "Sacramento Area is Delta's Top Pesticide Source, Study Finds", Sac Bee, 7/14/09.

11. 2009 Meeting Topics Review - Chair Robert Bailey

It was agreed to move the monthly meetings to the 3rd Monday for 2010.

12. Correspondence

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

- 1) An email to the city clerks of Folsom, Galt, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove advising that we would be sending them our meeting agendas for posting from now on.*
- 2) Official notice from the County of Sacramento that Mark White was reappointed as a Commissioner to the SEC.*
- 3) Official notice from the County of Sacramento that Diana Parker had been appointed a Commissioner to the SEC.*

13. Commissioner Comments

None

14. Adjournment - Next Meeting, August 24, 2009 - 6:00p.m. - EMD

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14p.m.

APPROVED