
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 Sacramento
City of Folsom
City of Galt

SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

MONDAY, August 24, 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, Mark White, Marjorie Namba, Diana Parker

Commission Members Absent: Panama Bartholomy

Guests: Herb Niederberger, Division Chief, Sacramento County Dept. of Water Resources; Kerry Schmitz, Principal Civil Engineer, Sacramento County Dept. of Water Resources; Dr. Desiree Backman, Deputy Director, Sacramento Tree Foundation; Bob Williamson, Senior Project Architect, Integrated Waste Management Dept., City of Elk Grove; and Dave Brent, P.E., City Utilities Engineering Manager, City of Sacramento

3. Public Comments - Chair Bailey

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Item - Approval of July 20, 2009, Meeting Minutes

No changes were noted necessary to the minutes.

A motion was made by Mark White and seconded by Diana Parker to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009, meeting as presented.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Panama Bartholomy

5. Proposed New Water Supplies For Sacramento County - Herb Niederberger, Division Chief, Sacramento County Dept. of Water Resources

Director Siebal introduced Herb Niederberger. Mr. Niederberger introduced his colleague, Kerry Schmitz, the Principal Civil Engineer for the Dept. of Water Resources who accompanied him to help answer questions. Mr. Niederberger discussed their four (4) present building projects: 1) the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP), 2) the Vineyard Surface Water Treatment Plant, 3) the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (a joint powers agreement), and 4) the South Area Water Council which covers south of the Consumnes River to the county line.

The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff. They thanked Mr. Niederberger for such a thorough presentation and indicated that they were impressed with the number and breadth of all the present projects the Dept. of Water Resources was developing.

6. City of Elk Grove's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program - Cedar Kehoe, the Manager of the Integrated Waste Management Dept. of the City of Elk Grove was scheduled to speak, but had a personal emergency and so Mr. Bob Williamson, the Senior Project Architect for the Department came to make the presentation instead.

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Williamson. Mr. Williamson advised the Commission that the City of Elk Grove does not own their own trash trucks or landfills. They presently have agreements with different haulers to do this work. Mr. Williamson explained that the City has decided to build their own household hazardous waste collection site as they see the need for more recycling and a greater breakdown in the different types of garbage/recyclables. He explained that a household waste facility is an enclosed building where household products such as paint, solvents, pesticides, light bulbs, batteries, used oil, etc. would be collected, identified and packaged into containers so that all of it can be shipped to disposal or recycle companies. They consider this an important aspect of what they are doing. Only a small segment of their populace has shown any concern about these plans. They have identified four separate sites, all of which are far from homes, schools or retail businesses. Their Draft EIR is already out. Their first step in doing this would be to actually purchase the land. The money for this is already dedicated. The planning commission review of the final EIR is scheduled for October 15, 2009, and the public hearing on it is scheduled for the City Council meeting on November 18, 2009. More information on this project can be found at: <http://www.egtrashrecycleservices.org/index.asp>.

The Commissioners asked several questions of Mr. Williamson.

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

A. Yes, that would be great. Please send it to the Elk Grove City Council. Their next meeting on this matter is November 18, 2009.

A motion was made by Mark White and seconded by George Link.

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Panama Bartholomy

Mark White offered to write the letter.

7. The Sacramento Tree Foundation - Dr. Desiree Backman, Deputy Director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Director Siebal introduced Dr. Backman who gave the Commission a PowerPoint on how maintaining a healthy urban tree canopy can improve the health of the community. She advised that their mission is to build the best urban forest for the Sacramento region including Yolo, Yuba, El Dorado, Sutter and Placer Counties. In the past, they had focused strictly on Sacramento County, but in the last 5 or 6 years, they have grown regionally. Their goal is to plant and grow 5 million new trees in the Sacramento region by 2025. Dr. Backman advised that this would add \$70 billion dollars in benefits to the region. Their present focal point is the Greenprint Initiative, an effort to move people to act on behalf of the urban forest. At this date, 28 jurisdictions have signed on to the Initiative. This effort is about providing energy reducing trees as well as putting native trees back. They presently have over 400 regular volunteers whose hours were valued at over \$206,000. The Foundation's present budget is \$2.5 - 3 million dollars. They also provide adult and school-age education in addition to establishing a partnership with Capitol Public Radio and providing technical training to municipalities. The local air quality board recently approved the Urban Forests for Clean Air State Implementation Plan which is the first time trees were included in air quality board planning.

The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff and expressed how impressed they were with the extent of programs and legislative interaction undertaken by the Foundation.

8. City of Sacramento's 2008 Water meter Implementation Plan Update - Dave Brent, P.E., City Utilities Engineering Manager, City of Sacramento

Director Siebal introduced Mr. Brent who spoke to the Commission about the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities Water Meter Program. He explained that the Dept. of Utilities is involved in the installation of meters, pipeline replacements, public water conservation education and outreach, newsletter and neighborhood discussions and water day rules and enforcement. He stated that meters are the No. 1 tool in water conservation. The water meter installation program has total estimated program costs of \$431 million dollars over a period of twenty years. There are 107,800 connections to retrofit. He advised that every structure that has been built since 1992 has a meter. They have received \$20 million dollars from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as they consider meter installation a very important part of the stimulus program. In addition to this, they have replaced 1500 toilets through their toilet rebate program and are replacing a great deal of pipeline as many of Sacramento's pipes are very old and a lot of water is leaking out of the infrastructure. Their studies show that households that have meters installed use less water than their counterparts.

The Commissioners asked several questions of program staff.

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

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

10. Environmental News Review - Vice Chair White

Vice Chair White advised the Commission that there were many articles in the meeting packet today that were preceded by a table of contents for their assistance.

11. 2009 Meeting Topics Review - Chair Robert Bailey

It was agreed that the Commission needs to begin to look at topics for 2010.

12. Correspondence

Secretary Kloock advised that there was a copy of a letter the Commission sent to Shane Jiang in thanks for his years of service.

13. Commissioner Comments

None.

14. Adjournment - Next Meeting, September 28, 2009 - 6:00p.m. - EMD Conference Room

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28p.m.

APPROVED 10-19-09