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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Stephanie Holstege, Chair  
Christine Casey, Vice Chair  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn  
Eugene Lee  
Gage Marchini  
Megan Reichert  
Jacqueline Todak  
Mark White

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:  
County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City of Isleton  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt  
City of Elk Grove

## **MINUTES**

Monday, July 21, 2025  
11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670  
6 pm

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1618310397?pwd=Sb2Jzvr0xbTrhVsDNmKYQZspZWJ1w0.1>

Meeting ID: 161 831 0397

Passcode: 990275

## **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary  
Present: Stephaine Holstege, Christine Casey, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Eugene Lee, Megan Reichert, Jacqueline Todak, Mark White
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment  
\*Members of the public have two minutes to comment on each separate item including any matter not on the posted agenda.
- 5 Cosumnes River Watershed Resiliency Multi Benefit Project- Austin Miller, Environmental Specialist, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources

The Cosumnes River flows for approximately 80 miles out of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Mokelumne River. The Cosumnes Watershed covers approximately 950 square miles. During heavy rain the river is very “flashy” and floods surrounding areas as the levees are not extensive. In 2023, floods in the watershed caused 3 deaths.

Local partners and state/federal agencies are coordinating to find solutions to flooding in this area. The California Department of Water Resources identified this watershed as a potential groundwater recharge project and did a pilot study using

an ecoFIP tool to create a model of the Cosumnes as it flows through Sacramento County. Weather event scenarios are played out using possible solutions to solve the flooding. Multi benefits to this project include mitigating flood risk, while increasing groundwater recharge and enhancing habitat.

Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order allowing flood waters to be diverted without a water right and used to recharge groundwater during flooding and excess water conditions. Diversion must involve existing infrastructure, a fish screen and not impact other water rights. Rancho Murietta CSD has been proactive in pursuing diversion of flood water to adjacent land for groundwater recharge under this Executive Order.

A list of 6 concept projects was developed for the watershed area involving:

- Utilizing existing side channels to funnel water to an appropriate field site
- Utilizing existing gravel and sand pits from prior mining sites along the river
- Identify ag sites in key spots along the river to bleed flood waters into by degrading levee

The Blodgett Dam removal project will recontour the floodplain, successfully allowing fish passage for spawn upstream for the first time in several years. Braided channels will be improved and a berm degraded to allow waters to divert and flood surrounding fields and flow back to Deer Creek.

The County will be focusing on the Wilton Road Floodplain Reconnection project. This project would protect the Wilton Road Bridge which is key to connecting the area, reduce the flood level by a foot and capture water for groundwater recharge. The Cosumnes River was included in the Water Resources Act of 2024 making it eligible for federal funding.

The Army Corps of Engineers has now surveyed all 800 levees in the region and created a list of levees to address first.

6 Groundwater and Sustainability Update- Chris Hunley, Groundwater Sustainability Manager, Sacramento County Department of Water Resources

There are four groundwater subbasins in the Sacramento Region with multiple Groundwater Sustainability Agencies managing different areas. The subbasins vary in groundwater stability. Some of the subbasin areas use more surface water than groundwater so the subbasin levels have increased, and the opposite is true for other subbasins. There will be a fee hearing to approve fees for cost recovery for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

7 Review Outreach Subcommittee Draft Outreach Correspondence and Vote to Approve

Motion to approve Richard Hunn's SEC Outreach Letter and edit Gage Marchini's Outreach letter to include language consistent with the SEC bylaws, and distribute both to identified County Departments and agencies, made by Mark White, seconded by Christine Casey.

Aye: Stephaine Holstege, Christine Casey, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Eugene Lee, Megan Reichert, Jacqueline Todak, Mark White  
Abstentions: None  
Noes: None

8 Approve Draft Minutes June 16, 2025

Motion to approve draft June Minutes 2025 made by Jacqueline Todak, seconded by Richard Hunn, after editing to include Jennea Monasterio's name after "EMD Director's Report".

Ayes: Stephaine Holstege, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Eugene Lee, Megan Reichert, Jacqueline Todak, Mark White  
Abstentions: Christine Casey  
Noes: None

9 EMD Director's Report- Rolando Villareal, Chief of Environmental Health

10 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Eugene Lee: City of Elk Grove Climate Compass. Comment period ends 8/15. Public can make comments online in the interactive document.

11 Subcommittee Updates

1. Outreach Subcommittee
2. 2025 Awards Subcommittee
  - Will review 2024 outreach document and add to it
  - Secretary resend awards announcement flyer to commissioners

12 Commissioner Comments

13 Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm. Next Meeting- August 18, 2025 6 pm, at EMD, 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

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