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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Mark Barry  
Trelynd Bradley  
Richard Hunn  
Diane Kindermann  
Paulina Kolic  
Thomas Malson  
Laura Nickerson  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
Josh Rosa  
Mark White, Chair

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, February 24, 2020**  
**10590 Armstrong Ave. Mather, CA 95655**  
**6:00 p.m.**

### **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order – Chair White  
Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary  
Commissioners present: Trelynd Bradley, Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann, Paulina Kolic, Thomas Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa, Mark White
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners  
Trelynd Bradley was newly appointed by the County of Sacramento and introduced himself with a brief description of his background.
- 4 Public Comment  
There was no public comment.
- 5 Sacramento Regional Transit: Air Emission Reductions, Route Improvements, Ridership Expansion- James D. Boyle Director, Planning, Sacramento Regional Transit District

Sacramento Regional Transit District recently re-examined its entire network of routes in light of changes to regional travel patterns over the years. This resulted in adjustments being made to every route in RT's network in their 400 sq. mile service area. RT operates bus, light rail, paratransit and micro transit services. Ridership on public transit has consistently declined across the country but after implementing their new routes, RT ridership is up 6.2% on weekdays and weekends by 28%-45%. RT employs 1,100 employees of which 80% are on the operational side, including drivers and maintenance workers. Outreach regarding the route changes was extensive with 20 temporary employees hired that accomplished 17,000 face to face contacts and held 137 pop up outreach events. Success in the route changes and increase in ridership is largely attributed to public outreach.

RT increased its networks ( when buses pass the stations) to be no longer than a half hour, sometimes being only 15 minutes. The 1<sup>st</sup> and last mile challenge is being alleviated by the availability of Jump bikes and Uber but also by the new Smart Ride On Demand Initiative. Smart Ride On Demand was launched in 9 zones and was the largest smart ride deployment in the country. Riders can request a bus pick up at a location of their choice using an app which will tell them in real time how long the wait is before pickup. Riders can only travel within the zone and rides are \$2.50, which includes transfers. There is no surge pricing for riders.

Route 142 to the Sacramento Airport is a major ridership initiative. Buses run from 4 am to midnight , originating in downtown. This route has logged up to 200 trips per day. There is a future, planned Green Line route to the airport. The FTA had paused the project but it is has been released and is now in Administrative Review. The cost to build all the way to the airport would be 1.6 billion dollars.

In October, 2019, RT launched Ryde Free for Sacramento region's youth. There is a direct correlation between pass price for minors and ridership numbers. January recorded the highest increase in student ridership at 106%. The program benefits disadvantaged youth, had immediate implementation, experiences minimal lost fare revenue and is subsidized by the cities the program serves. There are 220,000 students/youth in the region that could potentially participate in Ryde Free. The program is expected to grow school attendance which supports school funding. It provides mobility to extracurricular activities and promotes future transit riders.

Sac RT will be converting to a 100% electric fleet by 2040. The District currently has 6 electric vehicles and 4 green fuel vehicles. The plan for a 100% electric fleet by 2040 will be taken to their Board in May 2020.

#### 6 Sacramento Tree Foundation Update- Tami Granada, Sacramento County NeighborWoods Organizer

Tami Granada oversees the Sacramento Tree Foundation NeighborWoods program which focuses on unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Since 1982 Sac Tree has provided over ½ million trees in Sacramento, which now has one of largest hand planted urban forests in the world. The high success rate of tree survival is due to the excellent care protocols that Sac Tree has in place. Trees provided by Sac Tree, planted by homeowners and community groups, have a 60 % survival rate which is very high.

Sac Tree programs include the Shade Tree program which supplies trees for schools and parks, urban wood rescue, and tree care and pruning clinics. NeighborWoods Seed to Seedling program targets elementary school youths who are enlisted to germinate native oak tree and plant them through the Urban Ecology program in order to repopulate oaks.

There are obvious environmental benefits to trees such as shade and carbon sequestration but there are emotional and social benefits to the community as well. Studies on vacant lots in urban areas show that when lots are planted with trees and green, the neighborhood experiences a reduction in crime and fear, improved use of spaces, closer community and

reduced disconnect. Well cared for trees can increase home value and decrease energy costs. NeighborWoods connects with organizations already existing in communities. NeighborWoods just had their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual summit with attendees from communities all over Sacramento. People are thinking in creative ways about how to incorporate new trees, plant community gardens, create a ranking for sustainability efforts of local restaurants and promote the use local farm ingredients.

Service Plants Program will site a tree under the advice of a forester who will walk through planting and caring of the tree with the property owner. Community volunteers help dig holes for those who can't in order to plant the trees. School plantings improve the life of students as well as their academic performance. Del Paso heights will have 640 trees planted in the next several months. Richardson Village Park had successful plantings events that brought community members out to meet each other. Strategies for engaging lower income communities are continually under development. The Cover Your Asphalt program plants trees in parking lots of businesses which has been shown to improve business.

Education and outreach events are critical to share the benefits of planting and promoting trees. Sac Tree has reached out to school districts but they express hesitancy to have trees planted on campus due to maintaining them so Sac Tree suggests enlisting students to care for the trees.

Future Goals include increasing the tree canopy by 25% in the next two years. 2000 trees are currently planted each year. Funding sources include Urban Greening grant awards from the state, receipt of mitigation money, and private donations. Roof top solar installations can compete with tree goals so Sac Tree works with developers to determine which shade trees are best to plant in developments that won't interfere with rooftop solar.

7 Approve January 2020 Minutes

Motion to approve January 2020 minutes made by Eric Rivero Montes, seconded by Laura Nickerson.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann, Paulina Kolic, Thomas Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa

Notes: None

Abstentions: Trelynd Bradley

8 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department

9 Commissioner Comments

10 Adjournment – Next Meeting- March 16, 6 p.m., EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655

*This meeting is being audiotaped/videotaped in its entirety and will be available at the Environmental Management Department office.*

*Agendas are posted in the offices of the City of Sacramento, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove, and the County of Sacramento and also on the EMD Website at: [emd.saccounty.net](http://emd.saccounty.net). Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.*