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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Richard Hunn, Vice Chair  
Thomas Malson  
Laura Nickerson  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
Mark White, Chair  
Shelby Witherby

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, June 21, 2021, 6 pm  
Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98729806650?pwd=NFo1Wk5lRFRRbjZOUUIzdmhGbnBqQT09>

Meeting ID: 987 2980 6650

Passcode: 025740

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,98729806650#,,,,\*025740# US (San Jose)

## **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order – Commissioner White
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners

Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby. Quorum was present.

- 4 Public Comment

No public comment was made.

- 5 Projected Conditions of the Folsom Reservoir and the American River Through Drought Year 2021- Jessica Law, Executive Director of the Water Forum

Jessica Law became Executive Director of the Water Forum in January 2021. Objectives of the Water Forum are to provide a safe and reliable water supply for Sacramento's long term growth and economic health and to preserve the fishery, wildlife recreational and aesthetic values of the Lower American River.

The Water Forum meets regularly with the Bureau of Reclamation, which regulates releases from Folsom Dam and the Reservoir. Folsom Reservoir levels are lower than they were in 2014 and 2015 and inflow is at a historical low. The Bureau of Reclamation is maintaining a minimum level of 360,000 acre feet in Folsom Reservoir. Minimum allowed flow is 500 cfs.

There was an outflow increase in March/ April to support Salmon but flows have now leveled off to approximately 2,000 cfs and continue to drop to 500 cfs through the fall. Maintaining American River temperature is critical to protect fisheries, specifically Steelhead and Chinook. River temperature is currently about 70 degrees which is above Reclamation's 68 degree requirement. There have been temperature petitions by the Bureau to change those levels to 70-71. In the fall, River temperatures should drop back down between 60-68.

Water Forum agreements allows for flexibility within the system to shift from surface water to groundwater when surface water is low. The drought puts pressure on groundwater use. The Water Forum is working on water temperature modeling and which information is then provided to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery evacuated 650,000 Steelhead and moved them to Mokuleme because river temps were at 68 degrees and the fish were getting diseases. Reproduction is also affected at these temperatures. The Bureau does have a certain amount of control over temperature of water releases by choosing certain shutters to release cooler water that is closer to the bottom of the Folsom Reservoir using certain shutters. Recent studies indicate that the Sacramento region can expect higher River temps in the years to come.

The Water Forum works closely with water contractors that divert water from Folsom and reviews their projections. Folsom adopted a resolution to conserve 10% of water use voluntarily to reach 2014 levels. City of Sacramento adopted reducing diversions by 30% at the Fairbairn plant. The Water Forum is intentionally increasing its messaging and education efforts about water use and conservation.

The Regional Water Authority is currently discussing a groundwater bank. Pre COVID, the Water Forum began a Water 2.0 process which has now resumed in collaboration with local agencies and stakeholders. It's at the analysis stage where projects are being examined including the regional River Arc Project.

- 6 Sustainable Community Solar Projects- Simmons Community Center Solar Project- Jose Bodipo-Memba, Director, Sustainable Communities and, Jacobe Caditz, Manager, Community Education and Technology.

Item Removed.

- 7 Approve March 2021 Minutes

A motion to approve the March 2021 minutes was made by Tom Malson and seconded by Laura Nickerson.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby

Noes: None

Abstain: None

8 Approve April 19 2021 Meeting Minutes.

A motion to approve the April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Minutes was made by Richard Hunn and seconded by Eric Rivero Montes

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby

Noes: None

Abstain: None

9 Approve April 30 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes was made by Laura Nickerson and seconded by Richard Hunn.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby

Noes: None

Abstain: None

10 Approve May 17 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Minutes was made by Tom Malson and seconded by Laura Nickerson

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby

Noes: None

Abstain: None

11 Jackson Township Recirculated Draft EIR

A motion to draft and send, after commissioner review, a comment letter on the Jackson Township Recirculated Draft EIR regarding climate change impacts of the development was made by Laura Nickerson and seconded by Eric Rivero Montes.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Mark White, Eric Rivero-Montes, Laura Nickerson, Tom Malson, Shelby Witherby

Noes: None

Abstain: None

- 12 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies
- 13 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department
- 14 Commissioner Comments
- 15 Adjournment – Next Meeting-July 19, 2021 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

*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.*