
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Laura Nickerson, Chair
Stephanie Holstege, Vice Chair
Christine Casey
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Richard Hunn
Thomas Malson
Kayla Rabey
Eric Rivero-Montes
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, April 17, 2023, 6 p.m.

11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670

Zoom link provided for members of the public choosing to attend via zoom:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1608752767?pwd=cW9LaXFXLOZkaE95ZFFReURtTlh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 160 875 2767

Passcode: 548412

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ITEM

1 Call to Order – Chair Nickerson

2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Laura Nickerson, Stephanie Holstege, Richard Hunn, Mark White, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Tom Malson, Christine Casey.

3 Introduction of Commissioners

4 Public Comment

*Members of the public have three minutes to comment on each separate item including any matter not on the posted agenda.

5 Flood Management and Emergency Planning- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)

Jason Campbell, Deputy Director of SAFCA, presented to the commission. There have been historic floods in Sacramento since the 1800's. Two flood events in 1986 prompted the formation of SAFCA. Sacramento is at the confluence of two major rivers, the American and Sacramento, and is the most at risk city in America for riverine flooding with about 70 million dollars of damageable property.

The Folsom Dam was completed in the 1950's with a 300-500 yr. event level of protection. Peaks and flows along the river have steadily increased since the 1950's. All components of the Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project are currently being raised and the completed lower gates allow water to be evacuated from Folsom Dam earlier during high water events. Folsom Dam activity is guided by a water manual that determines how much water to release to alleviate flood threat based on weather, snow melt and flow factors.

There have been three major changes in urban levee standards in the areas of seepage, levee slope stability and bank and levee erosion. After Katrina, 100 levee failures across the country were analyzed concluding that 80 percent of the failures were seepage through and under the levee. New Federal and State Standards for Urban Levees addressing seepage were set.

Original levees were built from sand and dredge from the riverbed. Clay on the surface of the levee holds the sand in place. Levees were built closer together to narrow the channel in order to maintain the speed of the flow because it benefitted mining operations that wanted residual material to move downstream. That high velocity is now creating erosion of banks and vegetation.

There are 106 miles of levees and channels. The Yolo bypass is critical to flood protection. Current flood protection requires rebuilding the levee system, including ramps, adding seepage cutoff walls to keep levees intact, flattening slopes while increasing width along the top, and adding vegetation. All these efforts reduce erosion.

SAFCA has six current projects which, when complete, will provide over 300 yr. flood protection to Sacramento Region.:

- South Sacramento Steams Group
- American River Watershed Common Features
- American River Watershed Folsom Dam Modifications
- American River Watershed Folsom Dam Raise
- American River Watershed Common Features Natomas Basin
- American River Watershed Common Features

Groundwater recharge considerations needs to be a prominent part of water planning. Natural recharge methods include streams and creeks, mountain fronts and rain, direct percolation. Artificial recharge includes injection wells, percolation ponds and in lieu recharge which is utilizing surface water in-lieu of pumping. SAFCA is in discussion with other Upper Watershed operators regarding flood storage in the upper watershed.

Conjunctive use is a successful method of banking water. Groundwater is banked during wet

years by using surface water and used during a dry years when surface water is not plentiful.

- 6 Groundwater Supply And Management- Trevor Joseph, P.G., C.Hg. Manager of Technical Services, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Groundwater Authority

The Regional Water Authority represents 26 public agencies and water agencies and protects their water supply interest. The science of groundwater is not strait forward but put together based on data extrapolated from specific points. There are 518 groundwater subbasins throughout the state. The Central Valley is a large continuous trough running north and south through California. The subbasins combined have capacity to hold from 850 to 1.3 billion acre feet of water. Groundwater provides 40-60 percent of supply, depending on wet years or drought years. Groundwater table levels overall have declined each year causing land subsidence, saltwater intrusion, degraded quality, and reduction of storage.

The State Water Resources Control Board will intervene if local groundwater basins aren't managed sustainably. Water use within each basin area must take into consideration beneficial uses and users which includes surface water, the environment, agricultural community, municipal needs and domestic water use. The water table needs to be high enough to meet all these needs. Monitoring wells are used to evaluate minimum water table thresholds and define the measurable objective level.

- 7 Sacramento County Sustainability Update- John Lundgren, Sustainability Manager

Three stream waste collection will be rolled out in the County administration building this week.

- 8 Approve February 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes with corrections made by Mark White, seconded by Anthony DeRiggi.

Corrections: delete CEQ in margin on page 2, change next to nest on bottom of page 2, correct meeting address on page 3, and note that Chair Nickerson requested update on number of bird takes by SMUD.

Aye : Laura Nickerson, Richard Hunn, Mark White, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Tom Malson, Christine Casey

Abstain: Stephanie Holstege

Noes: None

- 9 EMD Director's Report- Jennea Monasterio, Director, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department
- 10 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Christine Casey reported back on the Sacramento County Climate Emergency Mobilization Task

Force Technical Advisory Panel meeting she attended. Strategies identified by the TAC to reach carbon neutrality goal by 2030 were:

Decarbonize electricity generation
Electrify appliances
Energy efficiency upgrades
Complementary policies (workforce development and increase permit compliance).

11 Commissioner Comments

- Awards Subcommittee Update

12 Next Meeting- May 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m. In-person at 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670. Zoom link provided for members of the public wishing to attend via zoom.

This meeting is being recorded in its entirety and will be available the following day. 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.gov. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.

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