
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, February 27, 2023 6 p.m.

10080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1608752767?pwd=cW9LaXFXL0ZkaE95ZFFReURtTlh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 160 875 2767

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ITEM

1 Call to Order – Chair Nickerson
Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Laura Nickerson, Christine Casey, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Kayla Rabey, Eric Rivero Montes, Mark White

Commissioners absent: Stephanie Holstege

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 Plastics Recycling and MRF Operations- Cal Waste, Casey Vaccarezza, Director of Operations and MaryBeth Ospital, Director of Brand and Outreach

Marybeth Ospital presented a video highlighting Cal Waste's MRF technology that recovers and processes recyclable materials more efficiently. The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) uses optical sorter machines that distinguish materials and sort accordingly. Materials are bailed and shipped, most often by truck, as rail is cost prohibitive.

Cal Waste does curb side collection but the largest part of their business is MRF processing in Galt. Ninety thousand tons are processed each year. The haulers they work with use a 3 cart system, one of which is dedicated to recyclable material. Six optical sorters are now used to increase recovery rate and capacity. Five percent of recyclables in the waste stream are plastics. Eighty to ninety percent of plastics recovered by Cal Waste are shipped within the US because they are producing a clean, quality product. Epic Plastics in Lodi uses Cal Waste's plastics to make bender board for landscaping. Other plastics go to Atlanta to make jet fuel. Rinsing food out of plastic jars is important to a clean recycling product and also enables the sorter to use the air sort function properly. Public education helps the purity/quality of the recyclables recovered.

Every month the residual trash from the MRF is tested and they have found they have an 80-85% recovery rate with the optical sorters. Residual materials do not make it into reuse. Plastic bags that are put into recycling bins can break machines by wrapping around the rotors and bearings. There is not currently recycling of plastics bags. Ninety percent of the cardboard and newspaper market is overseas through the Port of Oakland or Long Beach. There is a mill in Washington and Tijuana that processes paper. Paper is a volatile market and currently has a low price per ton.

Needles in the waste processed at the MRF often come from the AG sector, specifically bovine use. Safety processes in the facility include E-stops and double gloved removal of the sharps.

Cal Waste plans to build a large scale transfer station with green waste/ food waste processing capabilities in Galt, South County, open to the public. The region is lacking organic waste processing facilities.

Cal Waste has been discussing electric vehicle infrastructure with SMUD and testing EV trucks for future use.

6 SMUD Take Permit For Eagles- Ammon Rice, Environmental Service Supervisor

There are many federal Acts that protect birds, eggs, and nests: Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Federal and State Endangered species Act and others. SMUD projects are analyzed in light of these regulations. SMUD has Avian Protection plan covering all of their service area where there is infrastructure including overhead circuits and distribution poles.

The Avian Protection Plan addresses electrocutions, collisions with power lines, and nesting. Mitigation efforts outlined in the Plan are extensive. A few years ago, a red tail hawk built a nest on a transformer bank. SMUD set a pole with a nesting platform next to the transformer pole,

removed chicks from the nest, moved the nest to the platform, put the chicks back in the nest and observed the nest to make sure parent red tail hawks returned.

The Solano wind project has 107 wind turbines which produce 230 mg of electricity which could power 100,000 houses. These are mono poll type wind turbines. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) started a permitting mechanism for the Bald Eagle Protection Act. One of SMUD's mitigation measures for phase 3 CEQA of the wind project was to get an eagle take permit from DFW. The Permit was received in 2019. The wind project has many regulatory measures attached to it as it relates to bird incidents.

- CEQA Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
- Monitoring Requirements
- Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy
- Golden Eagle Incidental Take Permit

SMUD does monthly monitoring and surveys for dead birds, actively applies land management principle, such as removing trees that would attract raptors, practices turbine curtailment, and reframes distribution poles to make them avian safe. Mitigation measures also include foraging habitat conservation.

7 Sacramento County Sustainability Update- John Lundgren, Sustainability Manager

8 Approve January 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Mark White and Eric Rivero Montes, seconded by Tom Malson

Ayes: Laura Nickerson, Christine Casey, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Kayla Rabey, Eric Rivero Montes, Mark White

Abstentions: None

Noes: None

9 EMD Director's Report- Jennea Monasterio, Director of Sacramento County Environmental Management Department

10 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies
-Colonial Heights Library beginning lending program of e-tricycles

11 Commissioner Comments

- Galt Interact club is successfully gathering money to purchase a purple air unit and is working with the HS facilities staff for a good location on campus.
- Awards Subcommittee Report Back
- In person meetings begin March 20, 2023
- Chair Nickerson requested update on SMUD avion takes

12 Next Meeting- March 20, 2023 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and In Person at 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670

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.