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# SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Margie Namba  
Mark White  
Robert Bailey  
Dana Curran, Vice-Chair  
George "Buzz" Link, Chair  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Secret Charles-Ford  
Mark Barry  
Richard Hunn

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:

County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City of Isleton  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt  
City of Elk Grove

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015 6:00 P.M.**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**10590 ARMSTRONG AVE., MATHER, CA 95655**

### ITEM

1. **Call to Order – Chair Link**

*The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:02 p.m.*

2. **Roll Call – Staff Secretary**

*Commissioners present: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White*

3. **Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Link**

*The Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.*

4. **Public Comment – Chair Link**

*There was no public comment.*

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of November 2014 Minutes and January Addition of Links to the SEC Webpage

*A motion to approve the November 2014 minutes and the January set of links to the webpage, omitting the link [www.ecosacramento.net](http://www.ecosacramento.net), was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Margie Namba*

*Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White*

Noes: None

Abstain: None

6. **Single Use Bag Ban Referendum Implications- Sue Vang, Local Government Coordinator, Californians Against Waste (CAW).**

Sue Vang updated the Commission on the status of the bag ban referendum and how that affects SB 270 that was signed into law on September 30, 2014. The referendum needed 504,760 registered voter signatures to qualify, which it exceeded (over 809,000), and sample signatures are currently being verified before the referendum is qualified. If the referendum is certified as it appears will happen, the issue will be on the November 2016 ballot and not implemented July 1, 2015.

Approximately 107.7 billion plastic single use bags are distributed in the U.S. annually, 14 billion of those bags distributed in California. Their aerodynamic design allows them to be carried in the wind as trash, they don't biodegrade, attract toxins which animals then ingest as they chew the bags, and clog machinery as efforts are made to recycle them. They are costly to all phases of litter clean up and disposal.

The success rates in cities that have bag bans in place are impressive in regards to reduced storm drain clogs, bags found in creek and marine clean ups, street litter audits and carryout bag usage. Examples of cities that have passed the ban are San Jose, LA County, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Alameda County, and San Mateo.

Grocers have become supportive of a statewide solution for consistent regulations regarding usage of plastic bags and charges on paper bags and on plastic bags for carryout.

Local governing bodies can and may begin passing their own bag ban ordinances and Mayor Kevin Johnson has already proposed a single use bag ban for the City of Sacramento.

The Sacramento Environmental Commission agreed to the following action:

**Action:** Commissioner Hunn, along with Commissioners White and De Riggi, will draft a letter to support local legislation banning single use plastic bags to bring back to the Commission for review by the February meeting. The letter will not be sent out until the referendum has been certified near the end of February at which time the letter will be sent to local governing bodies, possibly the Sacramento Bee and posted on the SEC webpage.

**Organic Solid Waste Legislation- Sacramento County Etienne Ozorak, Waste Management Program Manager**

Mr. Ozorak updated the commission on many pieces of legislation that have been passed recently, the requirements they outline and the impact on current waste processes that they will have.

AB 1826 requires businesses that generate specified amounts of organic waste to now arrange for recycling, instead of landfill disposal, and for each jurisdiction to implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic wastes from landfills beginning January 1, 2016. The current infrastructure in our region is not large enough to handle all the new waste that will be diverted for recycling and there are odor issues and rodent issues associated with

storage and hauling. Currently, Sacramento County has 5 sites/structures which can handle food waste and include: An anaerobic digester (operating under a research permit and not yet cost effective), hog feed site managed by the USDA (which produces an egregious smell that is problematical), composting at the landfill, land application and composting and soil blending at another site.

AB 341 mandates a 75% recycling goal for solid waste producers in Sacramento County in order to reduce GHG emissions.

AB 25: The Solid Waste Authority will most likely be responsible for enforcing the 30% reduction in diversion of organic solid waste on the haulers. This goal is enforceable by January 1, 2016.

Mr. Ozorak discussed the fact that the new legislation will require monitoring CalRecycle guidances and monitoring and tracking of waste source generators and haulers in order to report to the state that measures are being met. Haulers must meet a diversion percentage or risk being fined. The diversion of organic waste for use as an alternative daily landfill cover no longer qualifies as part of the percentage of recycled/diverted waste.

Sacramento County Waste Management and Recycling has been evaluating long term infrastructure solutions to handle the extra tonnage of organic waste, how the region can overcome permitting obstacles, and what increased trucking needs may present themselves. The County has been researching models used by other regions to comply with organic waste measures. The state of Ohio has outsourced the process and they have signed a 99 year contract with a company called Viridian, to divert waste and then ultimately mine their landfills as a way to deal with organic waste.

Even though haulers are responsible for the diversion, the County wants to ensure that excessive hauling out of the county doesn't happen.

**Action:** Commissioner White will draft a letter that supports the diversion and recycling of organic waste, to be sent to the Board of Supervisors before the Sacramento Department of Waste Management Resources does their presentation in April, which may include a fee component, and bring the letter back to the Commission for review.

#### **Discussion Regarding SEC Letter of Support for the Single Use Plastic Bag Ban**

**Action:** see agenda item number 6

#### **Discussion Regarding Letter of Support for Additional PEV Charging Stations, Drafted by Commissioner Hunn**

**Action:** After eliminating 2 phrases, the letter will now be sent to the Mayors of the represented cities and to the Chairman of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. The support letter will also be posted on the SEC webpage. (Letter mailed 2/9/2015)

#### **Discussion Updating the SEC Vision Statement**

Commissioner Link commented that he thought the Commission should look at updating all SEC documents, i.e., vision and mission statements.

**Action:** the Commission requested that the secretary email the vision statement out to all Commissioners. They will bring suggested changes back to the next meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal

### **2015 SEC Elections:**

Commissioner White nominated the current Chair and Vice Chair, Chair Link and Vice Chair Curran to maintain their respective positions for another year. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner De Rigg.

*Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRigg, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White*

Abstentions: None

Noes: None

### **Environmental News Review – Commissioner Namba**

Drought and precipitation were the topic of the news article reviewed.

### **Commissioner Comments:**

Sacramento County's EMD Intern Program was commented upon.

Commissioner Charles Ford asked about efforts to encourage reuse of single use bags. Director Siebal talked about efforts of counties to promote reuse of the bags but success has not been achieved in recycling them and they still tend to blow away. Commissioner Charles Ford suggested that a campaign to take used bags to local pet stores for customers to use for pet waste disposal would be one way to reuse the bags.

Delta Stewardship Council was mentioned as requesting online input from individuals.

The Office of Health Hazard Assessment is holding a public workshop in Bakersfield, CA on fracking chemicals.

Commissioners were encouraged to begin Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) awards applicant outreach.

The City of Elk Grove is currently advertising for the open seat on the SEC.

### **Action:**

1. Tour requests to see Folsom Dam and Sanitation District Station- Secretary to follow up on this request.
2. Discuss the subject of highway 16, Jackson Highway, at the February 23rd meeting.

Adjournment 8:05 p.m.– Next meeting, February 23, 2015 6:00 p.m. at the EMD offices, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, Ca 95655

***This meeting is being audiotaped and/or 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, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, 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.***

DRAFT