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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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2014 6:30 P.M.**  
**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS**  
**700 H STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**

### ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Link

*The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:30 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*

*Commissioners absent: 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 August 2014 Minutes and September 2014 Minutes

*A motion to approve the August 2014 minutes was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Richard Hunn.*

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

*Noes: None*

*Abstain: None*

*A motion to approve the September 2014 minutes was made by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Dana Curran.*

*Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi*

*Noes: None*

*Abstain: Robert Bailey and Mark Barry*

6. Public Health Update- Dr. Olivia Kasirye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer

*Dr. Kasirye presented a Health Status Report for Sacramento County. The first graph presented in the powerpoint was a breakdown of the communicable diseases reported in Sacramento County, which are required by law to be reported to the Public Health Department. The top three communicable diseases in Sacramento County were sexually transmitted diseases. Sacramento County ranks as one of the top five counties in the state for the three leading sexually transmitted diseases and the numbers are continuing to rise. Cases of food borne illness on the other hand are decreasing in Sacramento County and fall well below the state average. Dr. Kasirye attributed the successful Sacramento Environmental Management Department's Green Yellow Red placard program to the low incidence of food borne illness.*

*There were 64 cases of tuberculosis reported in Sacramento County in 2014. Although that is a relatively low number compared to other reported communicable diseases, tuberculosis verification and follow up is very resource intensive for public health workers. The active carrier of the TB must be identified, those in contact with the carrier must be identified, skin tests and chest x-rays are performed and preventative medicine for those carrying latent TB is administered under the direction of the public health staff.*

*There was a recent tuberculosis outbreak at a Sacramento County high school. After investigation it's believed to have been spread in part by the school's hvac system which recirculates air between classrooms. Over 600 students at the high school were tested, 130 latent cases of TB were identified and 4 active cases of TB were identified although they were not in the contagious stage. The source of the tuberculosis is still unknown but it has been determined that no foreign travel was involved.*

*The table for Discharge Data by Selected Chronic Diseases listed Mental Disorder as the #1 cause of hospitalization in 2011 in Sacramento County. There were a reported 10,497 visits to a hospital for that reason in 2011.*

*Dr. Kasirye highlighted the information on the graph titled "Top 5 Leading Cause of all Deaths in Sacramento County from 2002-2011" listing cancer and heart disease as the 2 top causes. The high rate of heart disease is regrettable due to the fact that much of the disease is preventable with good diet and exercise habits.*

*There was discussion about the number of accident deaths in 2011 in the age group of 15-24 due to transportation, poisoning (which includes alcohol poisoning and prescription drug deaths) and falls. It was also noted that of the 263 intentional deaths in Sacramento County in 2011, the total suicides at 177 outnumbered the total homicides at 86.*

*Dr. Kasirye reported that there were more flu deaths in 2014 than in 2009 possibly because H1N1 was the dominant strain of the flu in 2014 and targeted unusual age groups of young adults and healthy people who may not typically get a flu vaccine. The flu vaccine administered in 2014 did include H1N1 protection. The best prevention against getting and spreading the flu is to get a flu vaccination!*

*Sacramento County remains at low risk for the Ebola virus which has a high death rate. Regional hospital staffs are being trained in the use of special protective gear that must be worn when treating Ebola patients. Symptoms of Ebola look similar to the flu but also include unexplained bleeding and bruising. Protocols in place stress that a person exhibiting possible symptoms will be assumed to have the flu unless it's verified that they have recently traveled to Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea.*

7. Banning Single Use Plastic Shopping Bags- Mark Murray, Executive Director, Californians Against Waste.

*Mark Murray updated the Commission on AB 270, the recent legislation that passed in Sacramento banning single use plastic shopping bags. The environmental costs generated to produce these bags, clean up the loose bags in the environment and recycle the bags, which present a problem contaminant, are enormous. It requires the equivalent of 24,000 barrels of oil annually to produce the amount of bags used in California which are essentially non- biodegradable. Efforts to recycle these bags in order to keep them out of the environment have been expensive and ineffective.*

*Beginning July 1, 2015 single use plastic bags will be banned in large grocery stores and pharmacies. Effective July 1, 2016 the ban is extended to the remaining grocery and convenience stores. Consumers may purchase paper bags at the checkout for a minimum charge of 10 cents and the bags must contain at least 40% recycled content.*

*Opponents to the plastic bag ban have filed a referendum and there are approximately 70 days left to gather 505,000 valid signatures. If the referendum qualifies, it would be on California's November 2016 ballot but during*

*that delay local governments may act to adopt local ordinances to ban single use plastic bags.*

*Environmental Management Department Director Siebal asked whether Caltrans tracks the amount of plastic bags collected along the roads. Mr. Murray stated that only LA tracks bag debris numbers. Storm drain trash debris is tracked in the Sacramento area and accounts for 25-45% of the debris collected.*

*Mr. Murray commented on the misconception that reusable bags harbor large amounts of bacteria and pose a health threat. He said it is no more bacteria than is normally found on common surfaces at the grocery, including the checkout conveyor belt.*

8. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal
9. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Curran
10. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bailey asked about the progress in adding the City of Elk Grove to the SEC and Director Siebal reported that the revised SEC ordinance was adopted by the Sacramento Board of Supervisors in September and became effective October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. A letter was sent to the City of Elk Grove when the ordinance was adopted and the SEC is awaiting their appointment.

Commissioner Hunn mentioned tracking the bag ban referendum closely so that if it qualified in February to be on the November ballot, the SEC could support the effort to encourage local governments to adopt ordinances banning single use plastic bags.

11. Adjournment 8:08 p.m.– Next meeting, November 17th, 2014 6:00 p.m. at the EMD offices, 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, 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.*