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# SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Robert Bailey  
Mark Barry  
Dana Curran, Vice Chair  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn  
Diane Kindermann  
George "Buzz" Link, Chair  
Margie Namba  
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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2015, 6:00PM.  
10590 ARMSTRONG AVE.  
MATHER, CA 95655**

**1 Call to Order- Chair Link**

*The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.*

**2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary**

*Commissioners present: Mark Barry, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Anthony DeRiggi, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Dana Curran*

**3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Link**

*Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.*

**4 Public Comment- Chair Link**

*No members of the public addressed the Commission.*

**5 Approval of October 2015 Minutes**

*1. A motion to approve the October 2015 minutes was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Anthony DeRiggi.*

*Ayes: Mark Barry, Mark White, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Anthony DeRiggi,*

*Noes: None*

*Abstentions: Margie Namba, Dana Curran*

*The vote did not pass with 5 ayes and will carry forward to the January 2016 meeting.*

**8 Approval of Web Links to Add to SEC Webpage**

*A motion was made by Buzz Link and seconded by Eric Rivero-Montes to approve the addition of November links to the webpage.*

*Ayes: Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes*

*Noes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**9 Electronic Submission of Form 700- Sandy Leahy, Budget Officer, Environmental Management Department**

*Ms. Leahy advised the Commissioners that in order to comply with new reporting requirements Sacramento County would be moving to electronic submission of form 700. She notified the members that there would be training by Sacramento County on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers and they could also access an online training.*

**10 Invasive Species Update, Nerodia and Emerging Concerns-Valerie Cook-Fletcher, Environmental Scientist, Invasive Species Program, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.**

*Ms. Cook explained that local invasive water snakes (genus Nerodia) are native to eastern North American where they pose no environmental threat. They are invasive when living in western North America and have been restricted there since 2008.*

*The Florida water snake, an invasive species to western North America, is now established in the Folsom area and the invasive Northern water snake has been found in Kaseberg Creek, Roseville, in both cases preying on fish, bull frogs, and tadpoles. The invasive snakes are affecting a food source essential to the survival of California special status species such as the giant garter snake and foothill yellow-legged frogs. Waterway connectivity in our region has been a major factor in the spread of the snakes' habitat.*

*The presence of these invasive species is attributed to pet releases by people who no longer wanted to keep the snakes. UC Davis has been actively researching and counting invasive Nerodia in the Sacramento Region and has provided the California*

*Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) with excellent research data.*

*In the fall and summer of 2015, an eradication project was implemented by CDFW and traps were set. In low water level areas of Roseville, no watersnakes were found/trapped but in the Woodcreek Oaks site approximately 150 Nerodia (approximately 1/3 of the total) were removed and humanely euthanized. Other Nerodia that have been caught and tagged will be studied in order to later implement the most efficient methods of eradication. Eradication plans will continue for the next 2-4 years.*

*CDFW has implemented a California Nerodia Watch iNaturalist project, and is recruiting volunteers to assist with eradication projects.*

**Action:** *Add iNaturalist link to SEC webpage*

## **6 Mercury in Fish and Wildlife Recent Research and Monitoring in California- Tom Maurer, US Fish and Wildlife Service**

*Mr. Maurer discussed the recent research carried out by the US Geological Survey in the San Francisco Bay estuary, on 4 bird species that are particularly susceptible to mercury in their food chain: terns, avocets, stilts, and surf scoters. These birds were equipped with radio tracking devices so that it would be evident where they ingested food with the highest amounts of mercury. Within 2 months of arriving in the estuary to when the birds began breeding, the mercury level in their tissue nearly tripled. Mercury is easily transferred to their eggs, resulting in unhatched eggs and hatchlings that do not survive, both with high levels of mercury showing in samples.*

*Mercury levels in fish directly affect birds that feed on them. The birds eat the fish at their highest levels of mercury, usually in May, and feed the fish to their young. The primary source of mercury in fish in the Sacramento Region waterways comes from the numerous mining operations upriver. Metallic mercury found in rivers and lake isn't toxic until methylated due to contributing factors such as water temperature, ph level and the presence of certain bacteria.*

*The State Water Resources Control Board has started an oversight group called the Bioaccumulatives Oversight Group which tracks mercury in samples from recreational fish from lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is responsible for issuing fish advisories that warn against eating certain types of fish caught in the local waters when samples have shown dangerous levels of methylmercury concentrations.*

*Mr. Maurer mentioned that an emerging source of mercury along the west coast is atmospheric mercury blowing from China.*

**7 Election of Chair for 2016**

*A motion was made by Buzz Link nominating Richard Hunn as the new Chair, seconded by Mark White.*

*Ayes: Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes*

*Noes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**11 Election of Vice Chair for 2016**

*A motion was made by Buzz Link nominating Dana Curran to continue as the Vice Chair for 2016, seconded by Robert Bailey.*

*Ayes: Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes*

*Noes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**12 Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Chief of Environmental Compliance**

**13 Environmental News Review- Dana Curran, Vice Chair**

**14 Commissioners Comments:**

*Commissioners agreed that going forward the commission should produce a yearly summary report based on the model prepared by Robert Bailey.*

***Action:** Post Robert Bailey's SEC Summary Report on the webpage.*

*Robert Bailey commented that he would like to consider touring the Clean World anaerobic digester in 2016.*

**15 Adjournment** 8 p.m. *The next meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, California 95655*