

---

---

# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

---

---

Mark Barry  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn, Chair  
Diane Kindermann  
George "Buzz" Link  
Margie Namba  
Laura Nickerson  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
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, July 16, 2018**  
**Board of Supervisors Chambers**  
**700 H Street, Sacramento 95814**

### **ITEM**

**1** Call to Order – Chair Hunn

**2** Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Eric-Rivero-Montes, George "Buzz" Link, Laura Nickerson, Mark White, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Margie Namba

**3** Introduction of Commissioners

**4** Public Comment

There was no public comment.

**5** Environmental Impacts of the Cannabis Industry- Natasha McClurg, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Management Department  
Ken Kwong, City of Sacramento, Fire Prevention Officer

The Environmental Management Department (EMD) is one of many regulatory agencies that conduct inspections at cannabis facilities. The Department is currently surveying facilities to add them to inspection inventory and performing outreach and education to facility operators so they can achieve compliance when regulatory visits commence. EMD is the Certified Unified Program Agency that issues permits for the storage and generation of large quantities of hazardous materials which would be applicable to cannabis facilities using CO<sub>2</sub>, ethanol and pesticides. Proper container labeling and storage compatibility are also components of an inspection.

Wastewater discharge at cannabis cultivation sites has a pH of 3-11 and is non-hazardous. Much of the water runoff is reused and recycled on site. At this time, the primary waste concern is the solvent waste generated by cleaning the tools and equipment used to trim and process the sticky cannabis. Disposal of lead light bulbs would also need to be handled

correctly by the facility. Cannabis plant waste is compostable with no special disposal requirements as of yet. Waste stream determinations and toxicity are not yet determined.

At manufacturer facilities, where waste is pulled off, ethanol-RQ is generated which may end up being a hazardous waste pending results of bioassay testing. Hazardous waste is generated during the reclamation of waste product, filtering, machinery coolant waste generation and the lipid and paraffin waste generation. Even though ethanol is being reclaimed, the filters will be hazardous waste.

Each cannabis industry regulator requires their own permits but coordinate to schedule facility inspections in order to reduce disruption to business operations. The four local regulatory agencies mandated to require permits and inspect cannabis facilities are the Environmental Management Department, City of Sacramento Fire Code, City of Sacramento Code Enforcement and Sacramento County Agricultural Commission.

### The Cannabis Industry and the Fire Code

Ken Kwong , City of Sacramento Fire Code Enforcement, explained how the fire code applies to cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and extraction facilities. The code enforces a minimum fire degree specific to building maintenance and hazardous materials use, storage and handling. Cannabis cultivation facilities often have fire hazards related to electrical and lighting, rooms not built to code, loads on trusses dues to humidifiers, carbon filters and lights and improper hazardous materials storage.

CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment in facilities poses a health and safety risk. The gas is odorless and colorless and displaces oxygen. The fire code calls for a CO<sub>2</sub> detection system. Sulfur is a common chemical found at cultivation facilities used to control pests, mites and mold and is used as a fertilizer. If mixed with hydroponic chemicals it produces deadly hydrogen sulfide gas and it is also a flammable solid.

Cannabis manufacturing facilities where oil, wax, and shatter are packaged for retail distribution are licensed by California Department of Public Health. These facilities may have hazardous materials onsite in small amounts. Laboratories and extraction facilities generally have large amounts of compressed gas onsite including CO<sub>2</sub> , ethanol, methanol and isopropyl alcohol. Special gas detection and safety features are required to be installed at these facilities.

Cannabis equipment operates under high pressure and is often comprised of individual components, not necessarily a singular approved piece of equipment. This equipment requires a registered design professional evaluation in order to pass the fire code inspection. Other industries use high pressure extraction processes to produce olive oil, vanilla bean, and lavender essence so this type equipment is familiar to inspectors. In Sacramento County either a mechanical engineer or Fire Code has to sign off on the equipment being used.

6 Approval of June 2018 Minutes

Approval of the June 2018 minutes was carried forward to the August 2018 meeting.

7 Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report

8 Commissioner Comments

9 Adjournment 7:42 p.m.– Next Meeting: Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., 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, 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