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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Mark Barry  
Richard Hunn, Chair  
Diane Kindermann  
Paulina Kolic  
Thomas Malson  
Laura Nickerson  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
Josh Rosa  
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, November 18, 2019**

**EMD Offices, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655**

**6:00 p.m.**

### **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order – Commissioner Hunn  
Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary  
Present: Mark Barry, Richard Hunn, Paulina Kolic, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa and Mark White
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment – Commissioner Hunn  
There was no public comment.
- 5 Cosumnes River Preserve- Harry McQuillen, Manager Cosumnes River Preserve

The Cosumes River Preserve has been in operation for 30 years. It contains 54,000 acres, includes the only river on the western side of the Sierra that doesn't have major dams and can withstand large amounts of flooding. Within the Preserve is the well-known vernal pool at Rancho Seco Recreation Area. The BLM spends a large amount of time and money eradicating invasive plant species, such as primrose and hyacinth and though the sloughs are almost clear of it plenty of other invasive species pops up in its place.

The Bureau of Land Management manages the wetlands and approximately 1000 acres of organic rice farms which pays for the management of the Preserve. No federal government monies are received from the. Staten Island is a 9200 farm, growing mostly corn, with farming operations tailored to provide abundant wildlife habitat. The Preserve also plants enormous amounts of trees.

Conservation education is a focus of the Preserve and its educational program at one time served as many as 10,000 school age children per year.

The Cosumnes Preserve consists of seven landowning partners: Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, BLM, Sacramento County Regional Parks, CA State Lands Commission, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Water Resources. These partners pay BLM to manage the wetlands, the rice farming, regional parks, and restoration. Some years ago, Horseshoe Lake on highway 99 was restored to retain water and now supports water fowl, cattle grazing and potential return of the giant garter snake. Current successes include the fact that there are approximately 29,800 birds on station right now and mountain lions are roaming the riparian corridor. Restoring wetlands is very expensive because of the large amount of earth moving involved.

There are 67 properties within the Preserve. There have been less land acquisitions in recent years so there is no longer a robust real estate division. The Preserve can't compete in purchasing expensive vineyard properties but would like to because orchards and vineyards serve no purpose in bird habitat. Hawks won't use them at all. Vision for the future includes: active and passive restoration, long-term land management, more applied field research, having a 13,000 acre Valley Oak Riparian Forest preserved and protected which means buying property to plant the Oaks, and adding 1000 acres more of organic rice farming.

Challenges faced by BLM are urban sprawl, ag conversion to orchards and vineyards, invasive plants species, ground water depletion and illicit marijuana farming. Wells have been draining ground water and river sections are no longer free flowing which is detrimental to salmon, and chinook.

## 6 Wildlife Care Association- Debbie DuVall

The Wildlife Care Association (WCA) began in 1975 with Effie Yew caring for injured animals in her home. It is now a nonprofit, volunteer based organization with 3 staff members that care for 5000- 6000 animals each year. The WCA is permitted by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to care for sick, orphaned and injured animals who are then released when they are able to hunt and defend themselves.

Funding comes primarily from mailings and the "big day of giving". Building maintenance consumes a large portion of the budget as they are located in an older building in McClellan Air Park.

Animal intakes include non-game, no domestic or exotic animals, reptiles, mammals and birds. Most animals are released back in to the wild except for turtles, as they may be nonnative to the area. Specific animals WCA rehabs as allowed under their permit with the Department of Fish and Wildlife include snakes, lizards, turtles, possums, squirrels, mice, rats, song birds, dove pigeons, doves, mallards and corvids and even grey fox. The permit excludes deer, bear and mountain lions. Animals that are deformed or broken and will not be able to defend themselves or hunt when released are euthanized. If they intake a bat, they place it with a

professional bat rehab organization.

The most common injury for snakes is caused by weedwackers and for birds it includes window impacts.

Efforts are made to release the animals close to where they were found and to never reintroduce an animal that doesn't naturally live in the habitat.

7 Approve October 2019 Minutes

Motion to approve October minutes made by Mark White and seconded by Tom Malson.

Ayes: Mark Barry, Richard Hunn, Paulina Kolic, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa and Mark White

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

8 Vote on Chair 2020

Mark White was nominated to assume the 2020 Chair position.

Ayes: Mark Barry, Richard Hunn, Paulina Kolic, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa and Mark White

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

9 Vote on Vice Chair 2020

Eric Rivero Montes was nominated to retain the Vice Chair position for 2020

Ayes: Mark Barry, Richard Hunn, Paulina Kolic, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero Montes, Josh Rosa and Mark White

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

10 Topics Subcommittee Report Back

11 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department

12 Commissioner Comments

13 Adjournment – Next Meeting: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

*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, 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.*