
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Christine Casey, Chair
Jacqueline Todak, Vice Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Stephanie Holstege
Richard Hunn
Eugene Lee
Gage Marchini
Megan Reichert
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: April 20, 2026

Location: Environmental Management Department, 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 6:00 pm

Select the link below to join ZoomGov meeting:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1618310397?pwd=Sb2Jzvr0xbTrhVsDNmKYQZspZWJ1w0.1>

Meeting ID: 161 831 0397 Passcode: 990275

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Christine Casey, Stephanie Holstege, Gage Marchini, Megan Reichert, Eugene Lee, Mark White, Richard Hunn

Commissioners absent: Jacqueline Todak, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

3. Introduction of Commissioners

4. Public Comment-

Members of the public have 2 minutes to address the SEC on any matter within the commission's subject matter jurisdiction that is not on the agenda. The commission may not take any action on these items.

No public comment was made.

5. Presentation- Methane Reduction Through Agricultural Practices

Professor Kebreab discussed the significant role agriculture plays in methane emissions. He noted that methane levels have increased 2.5 times since pre-industrial times and that a reduction of at least 35 percent is needed by 2030. Methane, which has 82 times the warming impact of CO₂, comes from both natural and human sources. Because it has a short atmospheric lifespan, reductions can produce measurable near-term climate benefits. Without mitigation, agricultural methane emissions are projected to rise 60 percent by 2070.

He explained that agriculture and energy are the two sectors where reductions are most achievable, with agriculture being the largest contributor. Enteric fermentation—belching from ruminant animals—is a major source of emissions. Mitigation strategies fall into three primary categories: enteric

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fermentation, manure management, and animal management. These strategies include feed management, diet formulation, and rumen manipulation.

Genetic selection of cattle can significantly reduce emissions and can be combined with other approaches. Diet changes, such as adding grape pomace (a tannin-rich byproduct abundant in California), can reduce methane while improving milk quality. Increasing dietary lipids also lowers methane emissions, though it may reduce milk yield.

He also discussed direct inhibitors that target digestive microbes. Seaweed and bromoform-based additives are highly effective but can reduce feed intake and milk production, making them more suitable for beef cattle. Synthetic bromoform performs best in an oil formulation. Bovaer, a widely used additive in dairy and beef operations, is effective but cost remains a barrier at approximately fifty cents per cow per day.

Professor Kebreab described the RationSmart mobile app, designed for lower-income regions, which helps farmers identify optimal feed combinations that balance productivity and methane reduction. Additional tools under development include vaccines and genomic selection. Farmers implementing methane-reduction practices may also qualify for carbon credits.

6. County Sustainability Update- Josh Lathan, Sacramento County Sustainability Manager

Josh Lathan reported that Earth Day will be held on Sunday, April 26, with strong participation from County departments. At the most recent Task Force meeting, Chair Merker summarized ongoing work, including efforts to align topic discussions with Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation and to increase the visibility of Task Force meetings. Also presented was the updated timeline for tracking progress on all 266 CAP action items.

7. Approve Draft February Minutes 2026

Motion to approve February Minutes after the correction of recording Megan Reichert as present at that meeting was made by Mark White seconded by Gage Marchini.

Ayes: Christine Casey, Stephanie Holstege, Gage Marchini, Megan Reichart, Mark White

Abstain: Richard Hunn, Eugene Lee

There were not enough votes to approve the motion so item will be forwarded to the May agenda.

8. Report Back On SEC Monitoring Of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Gage Marchini: The Water Forum 2050 Agreement received approval from both the County of Sacramento and the City of Sacramento.

Commissioner Casey asked about County Tiny Homes On Wheels.

Mark White booked a tour of the Sacramento Sewer District tour for September 10th at 9 am.

Eugene Lee: City of Elk Grove is nearing completion of its Climate Compass. The plan goes to the Planning Commission on May 7 and then City Council on June 10. Commissioner Lee mentioned AB2748 which is proposed to exempt affordable housing developments from EV chargers for permits for the next 10 years.

9. Subcommittee Updates

a. Outreach Subcommittee

- 1.** Language in the outreach letter was discussed regarding capacity to review and provide technical feedback. Item will be added to the June agenda for further discussion and potential action.

10. Commissioner Comments

Jennea Monasterio, EMD Director, provided an update on workshops now being offered for pool operators as well as workshops on Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs) to gather feedback on the opt-in option.

11. Adjourn- Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

The next scheduled meeting of the SEC is June 15, 2026.

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<https://emd.sacccounty.gov/SEC/pages/default.aspx>