
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Christine Casey, Chair
Jacqueline Todak, Vice Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Stephanie Holstege
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: January 26, 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, Jaqueline Todak, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Stephanie Holstege, Eugene Lee, Gage Marchini, Megan Reichert, Mark White

Commissioners absent: None

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- SMUD 2030 Zero Carbon Update- Joel Ledesma, Director of Power Generation and Tim Padden, Legislative & Regulatory Program Manager, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

SMUD outlined its progress toward the 2030 Zero Carbon goal, emphasizing two guiding pillars: Affordability and Reliability. New assets must exhibit the reliability of existing natural gas plants before transitions occur.

Key Activities Toward 2030 Zero Carbon

- Retooling and repurposing natural gas plants; expanding proven clean technologies.
- Increasing solar generation and battery storage.
- Piloting emerging technologies such as hydrogen combustion and carbon capture.

- Pursuing grants and partnerships to reduce rate impacts.

Challenges and Considerations

- Renewable and storage project timelines have expanded to 5–7 years from concept to completion, increasing costs. Material costs are rising, and some components—such as those for the Solano 4 project—must be imported. There is uncertainty around tax credits, grants, and tariffs complicates planning.
- Maintaining grid reliability requires keeping natural gas plants available during the transition. Severe weather volatility affects peak load and hydroelectric availability.
- Federal policy shifts have reduced support for carbon capture and sequestration.

All new projects undergo thorough reliability studies to ensure transmission attributes as well as megawatts. There is a pipeline of projects being considered that would achieve the 3379 MW of carbon reduction needed to achieve 2030 Zero Carbon, including local solar, local battery, regional wind, regional solar, geothermal and CCS. Local projects are especially important because they help ensure that the Sacramento region remains reliable during periods when the statewide grid is under stress. SMUD studies the new technologies to determine which are ready for power generation and commercially available and hardened.

A recent updated reliability study confirmed the Country Acres project can replace McClellan and Campbell.

The Cosumnes Power Plant, completed in 2025, provides operational flexibility by allowing megawatt output to be reduced while remaining online, then ramped up during extreme heat or cold events. In addition, the Constellation carbon capture and sequestration project is currently being analyzed to determine whether it is a viable option for future deployment.

6. Approve Draft November Minutes 2025

Motion to approve made by Jaqueline Todak, seconded by Dr. Antony DeRiggi.

Ayes: Christine Casey, Jaqueline Todak, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Stephanie Holstege, Eugene Lee, Gage Marchini, Megan Reichert, Mark White

Noes:0

Abstain: Gage Marchini.

7. EMD Director's Report- Jennea Monasterio

Sidewalk Vending became effective in Sacramento County in January, 2025. Jennea Monasterio gave an update on outreach, compliance and permitting. The Environmental Management Department permits sidewalk vendors when they are selling food for retail.

All Underground Storage Tanks have now been removed from Sacramento County per the 12/31/2025 deadline for removal.

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

Gage Marchini: -Discussed the Coyote Creek Project impacts to habitats and the imperative for commissioners to review these kinds of projects early in order to comment and touched on new developments in Natomas. The Water Forum received \$333,000 to plan habitat restoration projects on the Lower American River for salmonids.

Eugene Lee: New Sustainability Manager in Elk Grove.

9. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Outreach Subcommittee

10. Commissioner Comments

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

Next Meeting- February 23, 2026, 6 pm, at EMD, 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The meeting facilities and virtual meeting are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for accommodations may be made by calling Jill Koehn at (916) 875-8584 or emailing

koehnjill@sacccounty.gov

Agendas are posted by the County of Sacramento, City of Sacramento, City of Folsom, the City of Elk Grove and on the Environmental Management Department website at:

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