
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Mark Barry
Richard Hunn, Chair
Diane Kindermann
George “Buzz” Link
Thomas Malson
Margie Namba
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, June 17, 2019
EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave.
6:00 p.m.

ITEM

1 Call to Order – Commissioner Hunn

2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners attending: Richard Hunn, George “Buzz” Link, Josh Rosa, Tom Malson, Eric Rivero Montes, Margie Namba, Diane Kindermann, Laura Nickerson, Mark White

3 Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed Josh Rosa, newly appointed by the City of Sacramento, to the Sacramento Environmental Commission.

4 Public Comment – Commissioner Hunn

5 Updates on Polystyrene Management and Other Environmental Issues- Baani Behniwal, Policy Associate, Californians Against Waste

Ms. Behniwal mentioned past Californian’s Against Waste campaigns that have positively impacted the environment in the last 30 years: the Bottle Bill, E-Waste, Product Stewardship, Bag Ban, Microbeads and Straws.

Since 1960, plastic production has increased from 15 million tons to 311 million tons. Plastic packaging material flows are largely linear, with only 9% being recycled. Much of the plastic put into recycling bins by consumers still ends up in landfills, or, if recycled, becomes a product of lesser value. Plastics pollute at every stage of life, from extraction to production to disposal.

A University of Georgia projection estimates that 8 million tons of plastics end up in the ocean every year and, according the World Economic Forum, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2025. The International Maritime Organization states that micro plastics are found in a quarter of all fish and a third of all shellfish while Orb Media estimates that 94% of

all drinking water is contaminated with micro plastics.

One of CAW's priority legislative issues is a ban on polystyrene products. Examples of polystyrene includes ice chests, food containers, egg cartons and packaging materials. There are over 120 ordinances in California banning the sales and use of containers made of specific plastics, single use plastics and straws. Several California efforts require containers to be made of paper, wood and fiber that meet the definition of marine degradable (120 day decomposition time), charging extra for disposable items and the use of compostable food packaging to be used at state parks. AB 1080 and SB 54 are two companion bills that develop a comprehensive framework for reducing plastic pollution and reform wasteful plastic packaging. Proposed legislation includes source reduction or recycling 75% of single use packaging, mandatory recycled content in plastic bottles. and maintaining a list of acceptable substitute products.

A motion to further investigate the content of SB 54 and AB 1080 with the intent to draft a letter off support was made by Diane Kindermann and seconded by Mark White.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, George "Buzz" Link, , Tom Malson, Eric Rivero Montes, Margie Namba, Diane Kindermann, Laura Nickerson, Mark White

Commissioner Rosa refrained from voting as all of his mandated commissioner certificates were not yet received by the Clerk of the Board.

6 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report

7 Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Nickerson reported back on her research into the Buy Clean initiative presented to the Commission by the Sierra Club in May. She expressed concerns over the economic burden this might present to governments agencies and projects. Smaller business could fall out from consideration of supplying material for government projects due to the extra cost associated with hiring a third party to produce the "report card". Further research is warranted.

Commissioner Kindermann and Nickerson reported back on the SEC Initiative Environmental Education in Local School Systems. Commissioner Kindermann stated that the subcommittee found environmental curriculum in public schools to be robust. She proposed bringing elements of the SEC into the classroom exposing students to lessons about environmental education mixed with government. It would serve as a type of career day. The model would like: four times per year two commissioners go to a classroom and do an environmental presentation such as "Standard Dos and Don'ts for a Better Environment". Commissioners would talk about their area of expertise, i.e., wildlife resources or environmental law. Efforts would be focused on schools in underserved communities, targeting 4th-6th graders. Commissioners could get existing materials and handouts from other regulatory agencies for their presentations.

The commission acknowledged the service of Margie Namba and George Buzz Link as this was their last meeting serving on the SEC. Margie Namba had approximately 25 years of service and Buzz Link had approximately 10 years of service. They were thanked for their committed service and expert knowledge that informed many recommendations of the SEC over the years.

- 8 Adjournment 7:24 p.m. – Next Meeting: July 15, 6:30 p.m., Board Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95655

This meeting is being audiotaped/vidiotaped 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. Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.