
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Margie Namba
Mark White
Robert Bailey
Dana Curran, Vice-Chair
George "Buzz" Link, Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Secret Charles-Ford
Mark Barry
Richard Hunn

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014 6:00 P.M.
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
10590 ARMSTRONG AVE., MATHER, CA 95655

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Link

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Link

The Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.

4. Public Comment – Chair Link

There was no public comment.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of October 2014 Minutes

A motion to approve the October 2014 minutes was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi.

Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey

Noes: None

Abstain: Margie Namba, Mark White

6. Green Tech Education and Employment- Simeon Gant, Executive Director

Green Tech is a non-profit education and employment organization that works in conjunction with Sacramento Public schools to educate approximately 65 at-risk youth about green jobs and career opportunities in the fields of construction, utilities, transportation, manufacturing and environmental management. Green Tech focuses on the growing job trends in solar, water power and waste to energy job markets.

Green Tech brings real life application to the classroom by touring business facilities utilizing green technology such as Jadoo Power Systems in Folsom, a hydrogen fuel cells producer, and the Google offices in San Francisco. Turner Construction Company, the contractor for the new Kings Arena, also partners with Green Tech and allows students on site to learn the construction trade.

Students focus on three primary projects: construction of a Solar Suitcase, an Aquaponics Lab and a Computer Coding Lab. The solar suitcase project is a portable lighting system constructed within a portable suitcase. Students are introduced to photovoltaic technology, electrical circuitry and solar technology as they construct this lighting project. Each solar suitcase costs approximately \$1,200.00 with potential to lower the cost if all components are bought individually instead of as a kit. We Care Solar in Berkley originated the solar suitcase and currently supplies Green Tech with the kits. The completed suitcases are sent to orphanages in Africa and maternity wards in Haiti where they are critically needed.

The Aquaponics Lab site is being constructed in the Oak Park neighborhood with an estimated completion date of December 2015 and will aid in teaching students to raise fish and grow vegetables in one hydro unit. Students will gain skills in the emerging field of green agriculture while at the same time benefitting the community as the food that is produced will be donated to Sacramento food banks.

The Computer Coding project at the Hacker Lab teaches students how to develop Android applications for cell phones with the help of volunteer teachers. An app that is currently being worked on will have the ability to track the solar suitcases around the world.

Another teaching model has been the use of a Tesla car. Students are encouraged to think about getting gas combustion cars off the road and promoting the use of alternative energy cars.

Students are referred from the Sacramento County Office of Education and are typically youth who are at risk of dropping out of school and have troubled backgrounds. Green Tech encourages students to go to a traditional college but focuses on vocational training for those youth who choose not to take that route. Volunteer teachers are an integral part of Green Tech's success and include mentors from Consumes River College and engineering students from Sacramento State University.

The primary funding for Green Tech is the Sacramento Office of Education and grant funding sources. Their next fundraiser is at the Bluepynt restaurant featuring saxophonist Tia Fuller who works in Bianca's band, December 11th, 2014.

7. Sierra Health Foundation- Matt Cervantes, Senior Program Manager

The Sierra Health Foundation invests in partnerships and programs that improve the health and quality of life in our 26 county Northern California region, through strategic grant making. They award approximately 3.5 million dollars in grants each year.

The Sierra Health Foundation was a health conversion foundation started 30 years ago and

invests in grant requests that improve the social determinants of health such as education, employment and housing. They own a Conference and Convening center on Garden highway that hosts approximately 15,000 people per year and its use is free of charge to nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

The Center for Health Program Management was recently started to partner with other agencies looking to invest in health issues and improve health outcomes. The coalition's goal is to reduce death and disability due to chronic disease, reduce health disparities and improve social and emotional wellbeing. The Sierra Health Foundation recently partnered with the California Endowment and invested financial resources to improve San Joaquin water and air quality.

The Healthy Sacramento Coalition was founded in September 2011 with the Foundation's support to develop a strategy that would affect the social determinants of health in order to address the health disparity in 15 zip codes identified as areas of concern in Sacramento County. These zip codes of concern were identified by a Valley Vision Needs Assessment Report using data such as hospital visits and mortality rate. Funding originally came from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) planning grant. Priority target areas of improvement are tobacco free living, healthy eating, active living, clinical care, social/emotional wellness and safe physical environments. Education is a major driver of health outcomes producing a healthier life long term.

Mr. Cervantes touched on the topic of African American Infant Death statistics. The Steering Committee on the reduction of African American Child Deaths in Sacramento County would like to see a reduction in deaths among African American children by 10-20 percent in Sacramento County by 2020. They are educating African American mothers about sleeping safety, current protocols for sleeping positions, and crib safety.

One factor included in determining the zip codes of concern, is the data for third party homicides which is very difficult to address. Children who have involvement in Child Protective Services and the welfare system, statistically have poor health outcomes so one strategy is to improve the outcomes of youth engaged in the juvenile justice system is to treat their trauma and provide wraparound social services.

The Sierra Health Foundation values being culturally competent and responsive to communities and looks to partner with community organizations and leaders that already have an inroad to communities. These are entry points to diverse communities such Hmong and Asian populations.

Leslie Cooksy, Ph.D. is the Evaluation Director at the Sierra Health Foundation. Program outcomes are evaluated carefully to determine that grant money is being funneled into programs that are having measurable effects. Mr. Cervantes pointed out that changing social outcomes takes longer and is measured differently than just measuring clients served.

8. Restaurant Inspections- Kelly McCoy, Deputy Chief Environmental Health Division, Environmental Management Department

EMD conducts inspections of retail food outlets in Sacramento County every 4-6 months as mandated by the California Retail Health Code. Sacramento County was the first county in the state to use the Green Yellow Red placarding system to communicate to the public whether the food facility had passed their most recent inspection. The restaurant industry was very involved in the process of establishing criteria and inspection policies that are currently in place.

Restaurant Inspections focus on the issues that actually transmit food borne illness not just the cleanliness of the restaurant. These risk factors are defined by the CDC and include hot/cold temperatures, cooking temperatures, contaminated utensils, sick employees, unsafe food sources. At the beginning of the inspection the manager or owner is invited to join the inspection. In the event that this is not possible all results are reviewed at the end of the inspection and discussed at length with the owner/manager. Any violations that have been noted during the inspection are addressed to see if they can be remedied while the inspector is present. An inspection includes checking food temperatures, sanitizer levels, food handler cards, pest control reports, food invoices for shellfish, and repair receipts. When there is no more than one major violation a green placard is issued but the violation is also corrected before the inspector leaves so that public health is not at risk. A yellow placard is a conditional pass given when there are two major violations during an inspection. The violations must be remedied and a re-inspection is performed within 24-72 hours. Only five percent of inspections earn a yellow placard. A red placard is issued only if an imminent health hazard is present such as no hot water, vermin infestation, sewage backup or refrigeration breaks down. Food Inspectors must call a supervisor to get approval to close a restaurant and only 1 percent per year are closed, most often due to vermin infestations.

Business operator education is a high priority with the Environmental Management Department. There are training videos available online to the public as to how to get a green placard during a food inspection, quick reference cards on food safety that inspectors take to each inspection and give to the owners/managers, and food classes taught in seven languages at the Environmental Management Department offices.

Inspecting food trucks in the field has been an ongoing challenge as the trucks change locations often. EMD is focusing on performing more mobile truck inspections in the field while at the same time addressing food safety methods with the truck operators so they know exactly how to earn a green placard.

9. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Elise Rothschild
10. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Curran
11. Commissioner Comments:

Action Items:

1. *The commission voted to write a letter in support of electric charging station installations to be sent to local governing bodies that encourages personal electric vehicle (PEV) charging stations to be made available at all future and newly remodeled developments. Commissioner Hunn agreed to "draft the letter and bring it back to the commission for review and approval." A motion was made by Richard Hunn, seconded by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi.*

Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White

Abstentions: None

Noes: None

Not present at time of vote: Secret Charles-Ford

2. *Commissioners agreed to begin reaching out to possible nominees for the 2014 Environmental Awards.*
 3. *Commissioner White and Commissioner Barry suggested three entities that may have measurements for the amount of plastic bag debris that is collected in the state of California. Commissioner Barry put in an inquiry to the sustainability liaison at Cal Trans and Commissioner White brought up two companies that may have those statistics, Cal Recycle and Cascadia Consulting in Seattle. He believes that the tracking program is informal and sporadic.*
12. Adjournment 8:25 p.m.– Next meeting, January 26, 2015 6:00 p.m. at the EMD offices, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, Ca 95655

This meeting is being audiotaped and/or 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, Citrus Heights, 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.