
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Marjorie Namba, Chair
Diana Parker, Vice Chair
Mark White
Andrea Leisy
Robert Bailey
Dana Curran
George "Buzz" Link
Jason McCoy
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:
County of Sacramento
City of Sacramento
City of Isleton
City of Folsom
City of Galt

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013, 6:00P.M.
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
10590 ARMSTRONG AVENUE, MATHER, CA 95655

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Namba

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chair Namba.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Kloock

Commission Members Present: Marjorie Namba, Diana Parker, George "Buzz" Link, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, Mark White, Andrea Leisy, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, and Jason McCoy.

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Val Siebal and Vicki Kloock.

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Namba

The Commissioners each took a turn to introduce themselves.

4. Public Comments – Chair Namba

No public comments made.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of June and July 2013 Meeting Minutes

The June minutes were presented:

A motion was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by Mark White to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2013, meeting.

Ayes: Mark White, Andrea Leisy, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Link, Jason McCoy, and Anthony DeRiggi.

Noes: None

Abstain: Diana Parker and Marjorie Namba.

The July minutes were presented:

A motion was made by Diana Parker and seconded by George Link to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2013, meeting.

Ayes: Marjorie Namba, Diana Parker, Andrea Leisy, Dana Curran, George Link, Jason McCoy, and Anthony DeRiggi.

Noes: None

Abstain: Mark White and Robert Bailey.

6. The Status of the Drought and Water Resources in Sacramento County - Tom Gohring, Executive Director, The Sacramento Water Forum

Chair Namba introduced Mr. Tom Gohring, the Executive Director of the Sacramento Water Forum who made a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission. Mr. Gohring first addressed the question "Is Sacramento really in a drought?" and advised that 'no' they weren't, but that they have had a record two dry months and they are not sure where it is heading. Mr. Gohring advised that there is no legal definition of the word 'drought'. In California, we are not in a drought situation until the Governor declares us to be so. Drought is always is considered on a continuum and can drastically change from year to year. Presently, there are also political reasons that people are talking about drought. At present, the big concern is the proper amount of flow in the Lower American River (LAR) for salmon habitat. About 80% of salmon spawning areas in the LAR have been blocked by human developed (dams, etc.) which also affects water temperature. This region is presently trying to get its own house in order before a crisis can develop. The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is an important part of this. The Water Forum Agreement is a quasi-governmental, loosely associated group which has brought together stakeholders from government, business, the environmental and water field,. It is a formalized truce among these four entities. The Forum brought in a facilitator who said they could do this in 18 months. It has now been 8 years and is still not done but is a work in progress and has all the parties talking. It is focused on a 23-mile stretch of the LAR. They have developed a seven (7) element balanced approach to maintaining water resources in the region. They are: 1) increased diversions, 2) dry year actions, 3) groundwater management, 4) water conservation, 5) habitat management, 6) an improved flow standard, and 7) a Water Forum Successor effort. In the first 5 years, they were on track. In the last 3 years, water use is actually down, but growth is getting ready to occur. In the spring, the Water Forum publishes what kind of years it has been. One of the toughest barriers to water conservation however is ironically the cheap cost of water in our region. But robust education efforts has brought about a drastic reduction in per capita water usage in the area over the last few years. This can be attributed to an increase in density, active water conservation, the installation of water meters, and the deflated economy. It all adds up to a success story for the region. Another element in protecting water resources is habitat management including control of invasive species (plant and animal). Each Water Forum member contributed about \$1 million to help deal with the issue. This money has been leveraged with matching funds from the state and federal resources. One of the first projects it was used for is gravel augmentation in the LAR. The Water Forum Agreement is NOT binding. Anyone can leave anytime but, to date, no one has. There have been success stories in every area as the Forum services as an ever-present facilitator between parties. The one 'element' of the agreement that is their "red-headed stepchild" is the are of improved flow standard. The federal standards are too low at 600 cubic feet/second. The LAR needs to be at 800 cubic feet/second for proper salmon spawning. If it is less than this, it destroys their habitat. They are developing an environmental impact report (EIR) which will be released in 2014 and are presently staying ahead of the State Board process. They are hoping the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will adopt it as it, but are worried they will want to change it. The challenges for the Water Forum on the horizon are to complete the flow standard, purchase new temperature control hardware for Folsom Dam, deal with groundwater contamination (most specifically the Aerojet plume), develop standards for water transfers and reallocations and plans for how to deal with climate change. All in all, the Forum has been a huge success as, even when participants are angry, they have stuck to the agreement.

7. Get To Know Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails and Their Programs – Kori Titus, Chief Executive Officer, Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails

Chair Namba introduced Ms. Kori Titus, the Chief Executive Officer for Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, a champion in fighting for clean air, healthy lungs and a tobacco-free future in the Sacramento region since 1917. The name has not always been the same but the goal has – lung health! Their mission statement says that Breathe California is dedicated to healthy air and preventing lung and other air-pollution related diseases by partnering with youth, advocating public policy, supporting air pollution research, and educating the public. All the money they raise stays in the Sacramento area. Breathe California was involved in the writing and passage of

Proposition 99, called the California Tobacco Health Protection Act of 1988. They led the way in making light-rail a

reality in Sacramento. They have helped reduced smoking rates by 33% and played an instrumental role in phasing out rice straw burning in the Sacramento Valley. They have a three-pronged approach: 1) Research, 2) Education, and 3) Policy Change. They are a small organization with a staff of 10, a 20 member board of directors, and a 16 member youth advisory board. They use a lot of youth to gather their information. Their current air quality programs include the Air Quality Flag Program, the Air Quality Index Activity Chart, O24u, Junior High Anti-Idling Campaign, and just this year, they kicked off the "Breathe Fun Ride". The Flag Program runs a flag colored orange or red up school flag polls to let people know if it is a bad air day. The USEPA considers this a model and has asked for help in developing this for other areas. Their other air quality programs include iBreathe Sacramento (an app), the Health Effects Task Force (a brain trust of scientists and doctors), the Clean Air Awards, a Clean Air Agenda (which drives all their air quality policy. They have 37 different strategies.), the Clean Air Partnership (with the Sac Metro Chamber which has been in existence for 27 years). Their current tobacco programs include "Thumbs Up! Thumbs Down!" where junior high students watch movies and measure how much smoking goes on in the movies. They have trained people around the world in this program; "Learn, Work, Breathe", a program that focuses on college campuses; and the Tobacco Research Cessation Grant for Young Adults. Asthma is a primary focus in Sacramento because it is such a huge problem in the valley. Therefore, their current lung health programs include an Asthma Collaborative, Asthma parent classes, "Asthma in the Classroom", "Teens and Asthma", the Little Lungs Kit, and Lung Health Information. They receive 65-70% of their money from grants but also hold several fundraising events – the Hackademy Awards, an annual Emigrant Trails Bike Trek, the Breathe Fun Ride, and the Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon.

8. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal, Director, EMD

Chair Namba introduced EMD Director Siebal who referred the Commissioners to EMD's enclosed newsletter.

9. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Parker

Chair Namba introduced Vice Chair Parker who reviewed news items of local interest with the Commission.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leisy advised the Commission that she would like to send a letter to Capital Southeast Connector Project suggesting they reserve room for light rail and bicycles. She doesn't feel they have used the "complete streets" model. She made a motion for this. It was seconded by Diana Parker.

Ayes: Marjorie Namba, Diana Parker, Mark White, Andrea Leisy, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Link, Jason McCoy and Anthony DeRiggi.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Andrea Leisy and Jason McCoy will co-write the letter.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8p.m.