
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

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2014 6:00 PM
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
10590 ARMSTRONG AVENUE MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Link

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commission members present: Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Buzz Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Marjorie Namba, Mark Barry, Richard Hunn

Commission members absent: Mark White

Staff members present: Val Siebal, Jill Koehn

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Link

The Commission members introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment – Chair Link

There was no public comment.

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

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

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

6. Regional Funding Program for Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic- Lacey Symons-Holtzen, Associate Planner Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the metropolitan planning agency for a collaboration

of counties, and serves as a clearing house for research, planning and data, that focuses on smart growth for the surrounding regions. SACOG supports and interacts with local government agencies with application review and assistance, data and information requests, GIS maps, programming assistance, and project analysis. SACOG distributes federal funding for air quality projects, bike/ped projects, community design/smart growth projects, and road rehab programs. Keeping funding stream money in the state is a priority for SACOG, so they are committed to acting as a resource for organizations submitting applications for funding.

A smart growth plan called the Blue Print Project was created in the early 2000's, which prioritized growth areas and specified strategic, broad program areas that regions had vocalized as being most important to them. Working groups with a wide range of experience review application requests and rate them in priority order as laid out in the Blue Print program, to receive funding. Many of the programs are designed to get people out of their cars and reduce the total number of cars on the road. A new funding stream called the Active Transportation Program (ATP) includes a large sum of money funded by the state. Applications for ATP funds can include programs for biking, walking, and even infrastructure. SACOG applied to ATP in order to do a sidewalk inventory which would benefit future travel modeling and act as a data resource for other programs. SACOG also has a bike/pedestrian Master Plan that is updated every 2 years. They list and prioritize their projects making sure that those projects support the Blueprint Plan.

SACOG is diligent about maintaining an overprogram money list, which is a running list of active projects that applied for funding but were not awarded money. These projects are standing by as other funded projects exceed their time frame or fail to be completed. This way, available funds are not forfeited and sent back to the federal government but are used to benefit the local communities.

Disadvantaged communities are guaranteed 25% of the ATP money, and are not required to provide matching funds which can often be as high as 11% of the total monies awarded. Criteria used to classify a community as disadvantaged are that 80% of students are in free, or reduced cost, lunch programs or, that household incomes are a determined percentage below the national average.

SACOG's current projects include:

1. Cycle Sac, which is a phone app, bike route planner. You can map your route and then make comments on issues such as the condition of the bike path, bathroom accessibility, good views, etc. It provides useful data for SACOG for travel mode studies and scenario mapping. Director Siebal brought up Sacramento County's 311 system as another resource the bicycling community can use to report hazards on paths and roads, as well as illegal dumping or lights that may not be working.
2. Bike Ped Counters Pilot Program. SACOG is working with the City of Sacramento on this project and discussing what kind of bike counters would be best and where to place them. In-ground counters are less likely to be stolen so may be the best choice. Data from this program would aid in travel behavior models, traffic counts, and infrastructure needs. Working groups are currently discussing this project.
3. Complete Streets Resource Toolkits Online, which is a clearinghouse of related resources.

May Bike Month campaigns have continued to be a success. Bike riders submit their total miles ridden and SACOG asks the Sacramento Metro Air Quality Control District to calculate greenhouse gases saved by the miles people have ridden on bikes instead of using cars.

SACOG's budget for the last 3 years in the Active Transportation Program (ATP) state funding stream was \$180,000.00 and they anticipate approximately the same amount in the next round of allocations.

7. CalEnviroScreen- Larry Greene, Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Control District

The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool is a science-based tool for evaluating multiple pollutants and stressors in communities. The tool shows which portions of the state have higher pollution burdens and vulnerabilities than other areas, and therefore are most in need of assistance. Points are assessed to an area based on 4 criteria: exposure to toxins, environmental effects, disadvantaged or poor population characteristics, and sensitive populations that include children and elderly, and asthma and low birthrates factors. One weakness with the CalEnviroScreen tool, with respect to air quality, is that a community may have a high score based on the source factors of poverty and illness rate, more than air quality, and it would be beneficial to be able to filter the exact parameters which created the score. This would help insure that air quality improvement funds are reaching the communities scoring high due to, primarily, poor air quality.

CalenviroScreen 2.0, the newest version, is based on census tracts vs. zip code. The census tracts with scores in the highest 20 percentile are focus areas where Cap and Trade money should be applied. Version 2.0 added criteria factors for drinking water and unemployment rate to the matrix used for scoring. These newly added environmental factors caused Rancho Cordova, West Sacramento and Yuba City to be designated in the highest 20% of communities.

The recently passed De Leon legislation mandated that 25% of Cap and Trade money must be spent to benefit disadvantaged/low income communities. These communities often do not have the capacities to submit the applications for funding, elected local officials need to be watching for communities in their region that are identified by the highest CalenviroScreen mapping scores and be proactive in allocating funds to those areas in a collaborative effort.

Supervisor Serna sent a letter to elected officials, whose districts appear on the CalenviroScreen map, seeking to begin a dialogue coordinating efforts for applying money in the appropriate areas and strengthening the

application process through letters of joint support. The Air Resources Board thinks the State's Cap and Trade monies will be available for disbursement in the spring.

There was discussion around the possibility that poverty criteria would dominate the air quality criteria in the scoring. Director Siebal pointed out several areas on the Calenviroscreen map that were showing up due to proximity to landfills, toxic water, etc. They were not high scoring solely due to the fact of being a disadvantaged community.

8. Webpage Committee Update

Commissioner DeRiggi reported that eight of the nine commissioner biographical statements to be posted on the webpage had been received. Progress on the webpage revisions has been delayed due to the technical staff contact from the County being on leave.

10. Award Form Committee Update

Vice Chair Curran reported that a draft version of the new SEC awards nomination form would begin circulation among the committee for editing. This process will be completed before the next meeting July 21, 2014 and a draft award nomination form will be presented for review.

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

Director Val Siebal reported that there was no June newsletter as the editor had been on vacation.

12. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Dana Curran

Vice Chair Dana Curran reviewed three articles of environmental interest.

13. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Namba commented that the WRDA bill had passed allocating money to the Natomas levees. Chikungunya, a newer virus, is in the news having come to the US by way of mosquitos from South America and the Caribbean.

Commissioner Hunn asked if there was any county involvement with discussions between Tesla and Sacramento officials in hopes of bringing a Tesla factory to the area.

Commissioner Link commented on the issue of trains transporting oil shipments through the Sacramento area. Director Siebal reported that emergency response teams have been training for oil spill hazards and a new state tax may help pay for the reinforcement of train tracks shared with Amtrak, and for emergency response costs.

14. Adjournment at 7:50pm. – Next Meeting, July 21st, 2014 at 6:30 pm, at Board of Supervisor Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, California 95814

This meeting is being audiotaped 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.