
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, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2014 6:00 P.M.
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
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 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Staff Secretary

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

Commissioners absent: Mark Barry, Bob Bailey

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 August 2014 Minutes

A motion to approve the July 2014 minutes was made by Mark White and seconded by Secret Charles-Ford.

Ayes: George "Buzz" Link, Secret Charles-Ford, Richard Hunn, Mark White

Noes: None

Abstain: Margie Namba, Anthony DeRiggi, Dana Curran

Motion did not pass due to lack of majority votes and approval of August 2014 minutes was carried to the next meeting on October 20th, 2014.

7. SMUD Renewables, Clean Green Technology and Energy Part 2- Jim Parks, Program Manager of Energy Efficiency and Customer Research

Jim Parks from the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District presented on green energy and renewables part 2. He discussed the federal mandate for utilities to achieve 33% renewables in their portfolio by 2020. SMUD's renewable

energy portfolio currently contains 26% renewables. The federal government has also mandated utility companies to achieve a 90% fossil fuel powered plant reduction by the year 2050. This will create an energy gap inviting new sources of energy to be utilized to supply this energy.

SMUD is developing an energy project north of Placerville, California called the Iowa Hill Project. This is a proposed pump storage reservoir in which a new reservoir would be built at a higher elevation than the new pumping system that sends water uphill to fill the reservoir daily. The stored water would then be released downhill to produce electricity during peak demand, the goal being to utilize clean energy plants, not fossil fuel based energy during peak usage times.

Mr. Parks discussed the upward trend of photovoltaic sales units, with SMUD playing a part in seeing the process be consistently permitted by our local governing bodies with respect to the cost of units, permit fees and inspection time.

The Smart Grid model is changing the model of electricity delivery. There are more distributed energy resources being utilized within the District such as batteries, photovoltaic, dairy digesters and wind power. SMUD received an R (Research) grant of 27 ½ million dollars to promote smart energy research and infrastructure. They used this funding in their 351 million dollar smart grid projects budget which included the installation of 620,000 smart meters. Smart meters enable the consumer to exercise more control over their energy usage by viewing close to real time energy usage from the prior 24 hours. For example, power can be discontinued by computer, outage detection can be pinpointed remotely and embedded outages can be detected by pinging meters to see if they are registering or offline. The installation of Smart Meters has reduced SMUD truck rolls by 400,000 year. Smart meters also enable smart use pricing. These energy conservation methods can defer infrastructure building because energy usage is being managed smartly.

Anatolia is a housing subdivision that SMUD is using as a pilot Smart Grid project. 280 homes utilize solar panels, smart meters battery storage and PV chargers, and consumers can monitor their energy usage and decide how best to conserve.

Conservation voltage reduction is another method used to manage and distribute energy smarter. It reduces voltage on the entire feeder and distributes it at a lower but adequate voltage. Only 18% of the circuits are updated so far but more updates are planned as this reduces the need for new infrastructure.

Microgrid Projects are small, self-contained utility plants that act as their own energy production source and delivery mode and are being looked at for use at hospitals and schools. Managing loads is critical to not burning out transformers, prompting research to be done in the area of battery storage in these microgrids. Remote computers can zoom in on substations in these microgrids to inspect circuits and loads, and even visually check on equipment.

Mr. Parks ended the presentation with the fact that SMUD will be rolling out a new rate structure with price increases in 2015.

8. Low Level Radiation Mitigation at McClellan AFB -Sheetal Singh, Supervisor of Low Level Radiation at Former Department of Defense Sites, CA Department of Public Health(CDPH)

The Environmental Management Branch of the CDPH determines the requirement criteria and acceptable clean up levels at former military bases in an advisory capacity to the Department of Toxic Substances. Many former bases, including McClellan, are closed but contain toxic contaminants that require clean up and disposal. These contaminants are from solvents, caustic cleaners, oil, radium paint used in aircraft dials and buried materials used in the Radiological Monitoring lab.

The goal of the Air Force is to transfer land to the State with Unrestricted Release. There is a standard protocol for achieving this which includes site models, scoping surveys, historical site assessments, remediation and the final status report. The historical site assessment includes interviews with AFB personnel who worked on the active base to help determine where and what potential toxins are on the site. During remediation of the site other toxic chemicals may be present besides the radiated dirt but those contaminants are not overseen by the CDPH Environmental Branch.

Some land at McClellan has not been remediated and is covered by a combined cap such as site CS 11-14. A Consolidation Unit (CU) was constructed next to one of the combined cap sites and covers approximately 353,272 square feet. This is the first CU in California. This CU will house the radiological soil remediated at McClellan, a more economical solution than containing and shipping the soil to Utah or Texas for disposal.

McClellan is nearing the end of the protocols for an impacted site. Remediation will be complete in the next few years but it remains to be determined whether the land will ever be transferred to the State of California due to a provision in Title 10 that states that no land that has ever been contaminated by radiation may be transferred to the State of California. In that case, McClellan AFB would continue to be under the oversight of the federal government

in perpetuity but portions would still be available for other uses.

9. McClellan AFB Steve Mayer Air Force Civil Engineer Center

McClellan Air Force base was originally an aircraft maintenance and repair depot and has a legacy of contamination from oil, solvents, plating shops and radium paint. Because McClellan is a federal base CEQA regulations do not apply. In the late 1970's, neighboring wells showed Trichloroethylene (TCE) present, indicating that the contaminant had migrated from groundwater underneath McClellan. A process used to extract this contaminant is called Solvent Vapor Extraction. Solvent Vapor Extraction can take place from 0 – 110 ft. below the ground surface and is more efficient and successful in treating contaminants than the filtering of all the ground water. It is anticipated that the 5 remaining areas of groundwater contaminated by TCE will be cleaned by 2018. The groundwater cleanup at McClellan was deemed a success in 2010 with over 65,000 pounds of solvents removed.

Over 300 sites on McClellan AFB require some form of remediation due to solvents, fuels, metals, and radium. Disposal sites were constructed on the base in the 1950's, some of which contained the glass jars used to collect radiated air samples over nuclear bomb sites. Soil that contains elevated sources of radiation is shipped offsite to Utah and Texas for disposal. The soil with lower levels of radiation is put into a disposal pit and capped. Mr. Mayer presented slides of Contaminated sites 22 and 24 which are now excavated and remediated but which had contained an incinerator that burned toxic materials and also contained radium paint vials.

It is estimated the Consolidated Unit will be filled to capacity by 2019 but is currently at 50% capacity. It is lined with a multi layered composite liner and has a leachate collections system and gas monitoring system. In the winter, the CU is covered with tarps and has a rainwater collection system which will continue to be monitored and maintained by the Air Force in perpetuity, as the transfer to the state is delayed indefinitely. This is the only Consolidated Unit in the State of California.

10. Awards Nomination Form Committee Update- Vice Chair Curran

It was decided to add a line to the awards form that asked how the nominator had found out about the awards.

11. Website Update- Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

The offline SEC webpage was viewed and changes were suggested to include:

1. Change "Featured Issues" to "Current Environmental Issues"
2. Add walking and biking under the Transportation tab
3. Track hits to the webpage
4. Add link to restaurant apps

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

13. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Curran

14. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner DeRiggi commented on the Urban River Parkway report and the presentation by Dr. Richard Jackson on "Designing Healthy Communities" on August 26th, 2016.

Commissioner Hunn followed up on an action item from August's meeting on the subject of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Current locations of EV charging stations were presented and it was decided to put the discussion of whether, and how, to move forward with support for increased charging stations in the Sacramento area on the SEC agenda November 17th, 2014.

15. Adjournment 8:48 p.m.– Next meeting, October 20th, 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

This meeting is being audiotaped/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.