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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Laura Nickerson, Chair  
Stephanie Holstege, Vice Chair  
Christine Casey  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn  
Thomas Malson  
Kayla Rabey  
Eric Rivero-Montes  
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 26, 2023, 6 p.m.**

**11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670**

Zoom link provided for members of the public choosing to attend via zoom:

<https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1608752767?pwd=cW9LaXFXL0ZkaE95ZFFReURtTlh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 160 875 2767

Passcode: 548412

One tap mobile

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## **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order – Chair Nickerson  
Meeting called to order at 6 pm.
  
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary  
Commissioners present: Laura Nickerson, Stephanie Holstege, Eric Rivero-Montes, Christine Casey, Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Dr. Anthony De Riggi, and Kayla Rabey
  
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
  
- 4 Public Comment  
\*Members of the public have three minutes to comment on each separate item including any matter not on the posted agenda.  
No public comment was made.

## 5 Sacramento Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District Update- Gary Goodman, Executive Director

The 1915 Mosquito Abatement Act is incorporated into the CA Health and Safety Code. Mosquitoes pose a threat to California's economic development and the health and wellbeing of the public. Many mosquitos carry diseases such as: West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Chikungunya, Zika Virus, Dog Heartworm. These are serious neuro invasive diseases with long term effects so eradicating mosquitos is essential to public health. The Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District provides safe, effective, and economical mosquito and vector control by the surveillance of mosquitos and vectors to determine the threat of disease transmission while also lowering annoyance levels. They work closely with CDPH and UC Davis. When the District was initially formed, Malaria was the biggest public health threat, but it is now West Nile Virus.

Sacramento has approximately 1.4 million residents and Yolo has approximately 300,000 residents; meaning, urban centers are adjacent to agriculture and wetlands. In California, there are 53 species of mosquitoes, 24 of those species in the Sacramento region. Not every species transmits disease. They have varying habitats and prefer different blood sources. Only the females bite while the males feed on nectar. Mosquitoes have 4 developmental stages, with the immature stage requiring stagnant water. That is why the district focuses on public education and outreach to reduce stagnant and untreated water sources such as storm drains, untreated pools, stagnant water features in the garden, empty plant pots, dog water bowls, and tires that have collected water. Preventing larvae from hatching is a highly effective mosquito control method. The length of time from egg to adult can vary from 3-21 days depending on species. The aggressive Aedes species takes 3-5 days from egg to adult. Water temperature and weather are important factors in the life cycle timing. Aedes prefer to bite humans. This species is nonnative to California and traveled into California from Asia and Mexico. They are difficult to control once established as are most invasive species. The Anopheles species transmit malaria. The District uses chickens as a sentinel for WNV because they can carry it without getting sick. If a chicken tests positive for WNV then the District knows to focus on control measures in that area. Tick surveillance testing for Limes disease is a large part of disease control. Traps are set heavily in areas where a diseased bird or mosquito has been found.

The District has an integrated Mosquito management approach which includes public outreach, school education, surveillance, biological control, ecological management, and chemical control as a last resort. District personnel set and check traps every day to track disease and species types in rice fields, water conveyance systems, water in vegetation areas and urban catch basins. They also have a fish breeding hatchery program and plant thousands of pounds of mosquito eating fish in Sacramento waters each season. Fish planting is an example of biological control. The District will also assist with ecological control on farmland. They have aided with heavy equipment and labor to the Cosumnes River Preserve, CDFW, and US Fish and Wildlife to mitigate breeding grounds. Chemical Control is used when adult stage mosquitos are found to be carrying disease. The District is investigating using drones more often in the field to apply pesticides and increase efficiency. There is a moratorium on Chinese manufactured drones currently due to recent spying incidents.

Tulare Lake has become a mosquito habitat this year because of above average water flows. There hasn't been water in the lake for several years, so no funding was allocated to that area in the CDPH plan.

WNV is under-reported because symptoms present the same as the flu. In 2016, 442 human cases were reported, in 2020 only 231 were reported. The number of actual cases could conceivably be 30-70% percent higher than reported.

The invasive *Aedes Aegypti* was found 2019 in Citrus Heights and in 2020 a large population was found in Arden Arcade and Winters. They only fly about 100 yards which means they are being transported into the area on people, soil or, in cars. They are originally thought to have come to California on bamboo plants that were shipped here from other continents.

The District encourage residents to take an active part in removing standing water. Traps are inspected frequently to count mosquito samples. Trucks spray larvicide treatments at night to get material into back yards which is effective in reducing disease carriers below detection level.

The district performs disease testing in their own state of the art lab. Innovative control methods are being researched and used such as Sterile Insect Technique. This technique has been used by the USDA for medfly and fruit fly population reduction. Male mosquitoes are sterilized by either Wolbachia method, which introduces a sterilizing bacterium to the male insect, or by irradiation or gene modification. The mosquitos are then released into neighborhoods where invasive species are present. They mate with the female but there are no offspring, resulting in a significant decline in mosquito populations. In Fresno, a 3-year pilot project reduced invasive species by 95%. Sterilization methods reduce mosquito population without using pesticides.

The District has done some collaborative research projects with UC Davis. One project involved analyzing the presence of District applied pesticides in sediments and soils in organic rice fields. The study showed only trace organic residues which confirmed that there is no buildup of contaminant when adult vector control products are used.

There are resistance issues with the *Culex Pipiens* species in suburban areas. Homeowners use pesticides and over water lawns and the runoff enters storm drains. Mosquitos can build up resistance to the pesticides. To determine if this is the case the District does bottle bioassays from the same basins being sampled for residue testing which resulted in confirmation of resistance.

- 6 Sacramento County Sustainability Update- John Lundgren, Sustainability Manager
  - 2021 County Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The Sustainability Office will be hiring another Civic Spark Fellow this fall and focus on Carbon Farming in the upcoming year.

There are two inventories include in the Green House Gas Inventory Report, Community and County operations. Government operations reduced GHG emissions by 32.5% between 2015 and 2021. The three primary reasons were SMUD solar shares, solar installation at the airport

and waste management trucks running on compressed natural gas. That's equivalent to approximately 9,000 vehicles taken off the road for a year. The employee commute program is being highlighted again to aid emission reduction. The program includes a stipend to cover public transit, walking, biking, and reduced parking fee 3 times per month.

Community results dropped by 3.2 % due to continued use of fossil fueled vehicles, gas appliances and air conditioning that contribute GHG.

The inventory has been peer reviewed and is open to public comment.

Land Use drives climate change. It's a constant balancing act of climate considerations vs. development that will generate necessary tax dollars.

7 Approve April 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve the April Draft Minutes made by Tom Malson, seconded by Christine Casey. Aye: Laura Nickerson, Stephanie Holstege, Eric Rivero-Montes, Christine Casey, Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Dr. Anthony De Riggi, and Kayla Rabey

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

8 EMD Director's Report- Jennea Monasterio, Director, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department

Summer inspections by EMD focus on recreation health facilities' equipment, signage, and chemicals. Free pool operator workshops are offered by EMD to assist operators with public safety and compliance.

New Agricultural wells require an additional concurrence by the GSA they are in to make sure they will not affect groundwater levels or neighboring drinking water.

Drywells are being discussed across the state as groundwater recharge is highlighted. Drywells are not currently permitted by Sacramento County, but the State is working on guidance to protect groundwater if drywells become permitted.

9 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Tom Malson- Cosumnes Groundwater Authority is addressing groundwater depletion and applying for grants for drywells as a mitigation measure.

Laura Nickerson- Sacramento River levee update. SacRT awarded grant to purchase 16 new light rail vehicles for a total of 44 low floor vehicles.

Christine Casey- Active Transportation Commission annual report was accepted by the Council. Requests in the report include an ebike lending library program, safe routes to school, pedestrian and biker safety, increase bike parking, reestablish slow and active streets.

10 Commissioner Comments

- Awards Subcommittee Update

- 11 Next Meeting- Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm. July 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m. In-person at 11080 White Rock Road, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, 95670. Zoom link provided for members of the public wishing to attend via zoom.

*This meeting is being recorded in its entirety and will be available the following day. Agendas are posted in the offices of the City of Sacramento, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove, and the County of Sacramento and on the EMD Website at: [emd.saccounty.gov](http://emd.saccounty.gov). Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.*