
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Robert Bailey
Mark Barry
Dana Curran, Vice-Chair
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi
Richard Hunn, Chair
Diane Kindermann
George "Buzz" Link
Margie Namba
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

MEETING MINUTES **Monday, March 20, 2017** 10590 Armstrong Ave. Mather, CA 95655 6:00 p.m.

ITEM

- 1** Call to Order – Chair Hunn
Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2** Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Present: Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Anthony DeRiggi, Diane Kindermann, George Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes, and Mark White.

- 3** Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Hunn
- 4** Public Comment – Chair Hunn
Retired former Environmental Management Director, Mel Knight, stood to recognize Director Val Siebal, on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Knight commented that under Director Siebal's excellent leadership, the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is a known leader in the industry for its innovation, education, and collaboration with other agencies. He also acknowledged Director Siebal's long relationship with the Sacramento Environmental Commission, both as a commissioner and as Executive Director.
- 5** Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Update- Richard Johnson, Executive Director
Mr. Johnson stated that New Orleans is now safer than Sacramento in regards to levies and flood safety due to the Post Katrina repairs and levee improvements, and Sacramento is now the #1 most at risk city in America for urban flooding. Half a million people live in the flood plain with 70 billion dollars in damageable property.

Most levees in the Sacramento region are old and were constructed with old methods such as clam dredging, the use of sand and silt, steep slopes, and no foundation. SAFCA is working on upgrading levees by adding slurry walls, constructing better slopes, and using hardening materials on the

riverbanks. One hundred six miles of levees surrounding the area are under SAFCA jurisdiction. SAFCA has authorizations from Congress to cover every part of improving its levee system, worth \$4.4 billion of projects, but appropriations have not yet been made.

Flood protection standards have improved since Folsom Dam and the surrounding levees were built. Peak flows are higher than the levees were designed for and triggers have been studied. After the floods of '97 in the Central Valley, studies were done on the 40 levee failures which found that the majority of flood issues were geotechnical, not overtopping, meaning seepage and underseepage were the primary failures.

After Katrina there was a 2007 Levee Vulnerability Technical Memorandum which analyzed the past 100 levee failures across the county. Only 20% were due to overtopping. The remaining 80% of failures were due to seepage and underseepage. This resulted in new Federal and State standards for urban levees. Methods of strengthening and upgrading levees include seepage cut off walls being inserted into levees, higher standards for bank, channel and levee erosion mitigation, by hardening riverbanks using hardening materials and specific plantings. Fifty miles of levees and channels under SAFCA jurisdiction had been upgraded to meet the new standard, 22 miles do not need upgrading and 34 miles of levees are waiting for upgrades when the new appropriations are made. Still to do are to raise the Folsom Dam and widen the Sacramento Weir and Bypass.

In December 2016, Congress passed the WIIN Act which authorizes the American River Watershed Common Features General Reevaluation Report. The authorization was for \$1,595,761,000, the largest authorization for SAFCA. This will enable the doubling of the width of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass, updating levees and repairing erosion and underseepage along the American River, Sacramento River and Eastside tributaries. Widening of the Sacramento Weir and Bypass would significantly increase the flood protection provided to Sacramento because during flood events, these carry approximately 80% of the water past Sacramento, instead of flooding into Sacramento.

A new standard in levee management is the focus on removing encroachments, including pools and extended yards with high risk vegetation. The "vegetation on levees" policy has moved from no vegetation to risk based vegetation being allowed, as it reduces erosion and slows water flow. SAFCA has identified all trees on its levees and assigned them risk factors and is currently preparing its outreach for properties that have encroachments that need to be removed.

After SAFCA completes all the work planned on authorized projects Sacramento will be in a 200-300 year flood protection range.

6 A Primer on Water in Sacramento Region- Sources-Users- Suppliers-Commissioner Link

There are two surface water supplies in the Sacramento region, the American River and the Sacramento River. Groundwater is supplied by the North Basin and South Basin and some recycled water supplies the region from the Sacramento river Treatment Plant.

Consumptive water usage occurs when water is removed from the River for indoor/outdoor use, agricultural use and environmental use such a wildlife refuges. Non consumptive water use means

that water stays in the channel but provides usage for hydropower and fish and wildlife habitats.

Water is regulated by the Federal, State and local governments. The State Regional Water Control Resources Boards issues water right. The Regional Water Quality Control Board oversees water quality and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife oversees fish and wildlife water sources. Sacramento's local water regulator, the Water Forum Agreement, is a collaboration of groups that drive water policy.

The Folsom Dam was constructed in 1955 as a Central Valley Project for flood control, water supply, power, navigation and environmental benefits. At one time, the Army Corp of Engineers would dredge the river so that barges could navigate south.

The median water year inflow into Folsom Dam is 2,600,000 acre feet. Already to date, during this very wet year, the October 1- to date inflow has been 4,350,000 acre feet. The storage capacity is 977,000, which means that already this year the Dam has conceivably been filled and emptied 4 times.

There are six diversion facilities on/in the American and Sacramento Rivers, including pumping plants, canals, and Ranney collectors. The America River facilities divert water to SMUD, Roseville, City of Sacramento and the Folsom prison. The Sacramento River Diversion intake pumps water to the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento and East Bay MUDD.

The California Supreme Court has established that riparian rights holders have priority for diverting water over most appropriative water rights holders. Riparian rights have exclusions regarding artificial storage and pumping to sites not adjoining the waterway. Appropriative rights to surface water include the use of unappropriated water that is surplus to the needs of riparian rights owners and prior appropriators. These rights are based on diversion uses of the water and are good only if there is surplus water available, but do include water storage. Prescriptive rights are created by five years open and notorious use of water. Groundwater rights exist when a landowner's land overlies a groundwater basin but rights are limited to a reasonable usage. California is in the process of regulating groundwater so groundwater rights will be changing. They are one of the last states to regulate groundwater rights and usage.

Water suppliers' contracts contain conditions such as maximum rate of diversion, annual volume of diversion, time of diversion, uses, and clauses that exist in the event of water source deficiencies. California urban water suppliers now prepare long term resource water plans that asses the reliability of their water supply and report their progress in meeting the 20 % water reduction consumption goal by the year 2020. One acre-foot of water meets the needs of two typical California households for one year.

Commissioner Link presented tables listing the 19 water suppliers in our region and how much water from the American and Sacramento Rivers are diverted to the various contract holders.

7 Approval of July 2016 Minutes

A motion to approve the July 2016 minutes was made by Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Mark

White.

Ayes: George Buzz Link, Dana Curran, Mark White, Mark Barry, Anthony DeRiggi, Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero Montes

No: None

Abstain: Bob Bailey, Dianne Kindermann, Margie Namba

8 Approval of October 2016 Minutes

A motion to approve the October 2016 minutes was made by George Buzz Link and seconded by Diane Kindermann.

Ayes: George Buzz Link, Dana Curran, Mark Barry, Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero-Montes, Bob Bailey, Diane Kindermann

Noes: None

Abstentions: Mark White, Anthony DeRiggi, Margie Namba

9 Approval of November 2016 Minutes

A motion to approve the November 2016 minutes was made by Mark White and seconded by Eric Rivero-Montes.

Ayes: George Buzz Link, Dana Curran, Mark White, Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero-Montes, Margie Namba

Noes: None

Abstentions: Bob Bailey, Mark Barry, Diane Kindermann, Anthony DeRiggi

10 Approval of January 2017 Minutes

A motion to approve the January 2017 minutes was made by George Buzz Link and seconded by Dana Curran.

Ayes: George Buzz link, Dana Curran, Mark White, Richard Hunn, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba.

Abstentions: Mark Barry, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Diane Kindermann

11 Approval of February 2017 Minutes

A motion to approve the February 2017 minutes was made by Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Diane Kindermann.

Ayes: George Buzz Link, Mark White, Mark Barry, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Robert Bailey, Diane Kindermann

Noes: None

Abstentions: Richard Hunn, Margie Namba, Dana Curran

12 Discussion of Progress on Cyanobacteria Position Paper. Finalize study sections. Identify next steps. Item carried forward to May, 2017 meeting.

13 New Items for SEC Consideration

1. Establishing SEC Annual Goals
2. Create Permanent and Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. Permanent Committees

- i. Environmental Awards Committee
 - ii. Webpage Committee
 - iii. Annual Report Committee
 - b. Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Cyanobacteria Committee
 - ii. Electric Vehicle Fleet Committee (New)
 - c. Establishing Committee Work Plans
 - i. Goals
 - ii. Tasks
 - iii. Schedule
- 2. Create Duty Statement for Commissioners and Chair/Vice Chair
 - a. Roles and Responsibilities
 - b. Participation on Committees
 - c. Contribution to SEC Recommendations
- 3. Create List of Interested Stakeholders/Agencies for SEC Outreach
 - a. Agency Monitoring Reports
 - b. Stakeholders and Interested Groups
 - i. Identify Type of Communications/Outreach
 - ii. Time Schedule for Outreach
 - iii. Initiate Outreach

Chair Hunn presented the elements of the outline and identified select components that could be further developed and provide guidance to future SEC activities. It was agreed that portions of the outline would be brought to the Commission for discussion and further development.

A motion to approve the outline drafted by Chair Hunn, formulating formal SEC goals, workplans, commissioner duty statements and Ad Hoc and permanent committees was made by Diane Kindermann and seconded by Margie Namba.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Anthony DeRiggi, Diane Kindermann, George Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes, and Mark White.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Chair Hunn addressed an article that described the ongoing program to replace vehicle fleets with zero-emission vehicles being implemented by the State of California, City of San Francisco, and other municipalities. Chair Hunn posed the question whether the SEC should investigate this program and if feasible, encourage local agencies to participate.

A motion was made to form an Electric Vehicle Fleet Committee by Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Eric Rivero-Montes.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, Dana Curran, Anthony DeRiggi, Diane Kindermann, George Buzz Link, Margie Namba, Eric Rivero-Montes, and Mark White.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Electric Vehicle Committee volunteers were: Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero-Montes, Mark White and

Dana Curran.

- 14 Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report- EMD Representative
- 15 Agency Monitoring Report Back- Commissioners
- 16 Commissioner Comments
- 17 Adjournment 8:27 p.m.– Next Meeting Monday, April 17th, 6:30 p.m., Board 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, 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.