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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Robert Bailey  
Mark Barry  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn, Chair  
Diane Kindermann  
George "Buzz" Link  
Margie Namba  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
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, November 20, 2017**

**EMD Offices, 10590 Armstrong Ave.**

**Mather, CA 95655**

**6 p.m.**

### **ITEM**

- 1** Call to Order – Chair Hunn  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2** Roll Call – Staff Secretary
- 3** Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Hunn
- 4** Public Comment – Chair Hunn  
Member of the public, Mel Knight, requested to speak on item #5.
- 5** Sacramento Environmental Commission Discussion on The Ramifications of the Sacramento County Reorganization

Chair Hunn introduced the discussion on the proposed restructure of the Environmental Management Department (EMD).

1. EMD was created as a Department in 1988 as the single countywide authority for addressing environmental issues in a consistent and efficient manner, as recommended to the Board of Supervisors by the Community Toxics Committee. Environmental matters continue to increase in complexity and legislative mandates and EMD oversees 33 programs.
2. EMD addresses highly technical matters that often require immediate response by proficient experts. The proposed reorganization would place two levels of administration over EMD, potentially hindering response. Being placed in a Social Services Agency may also dilute the focus on environmental matters.

3. EMD is a fee based department independent of County general funds. The proposed reorganization could potentially impact fees and efficiencies.
4. The reorganization could restrict EMD's ability to communicate quickly with the public and the Board of Supervisors, causing inefficiencies.

Mel Knight addressed the Commission. In 1988, two citizens groups recommended EMD become a department in order to address the new environmental laws and complex issues that were arising. Mr. Knight is supportive of consolidation when effectiveness and efficiencies are improved but in this case he sees no improvements for the regulated community or public health and fears EMD may be collateral damage in an attempt to fix Social Services budgeting issues. He believes that only by being a Department is EMD empowered to accomplish their mission.

His opinion is that the part of the reorganization that involves EMD should be delayed and not rushed through the process on January 9<sup>th</sup> until it is thoroughly evaluated.

Mike Lien, of L and D Landfill, requested to comment on the reorganization. He is a landfill owner that pays significant fees to EMD, has long term participation in the Solid Waste Authority and has deep knowledge of solid waste issues in Sacramento County. He said that he values the business-like relationship EMD has with the regulated community. It is responsive and efficient. Mr. Lien, in addition to other county officials, was instrumental in creating the solid waste fee structure being used by the County, which is copied by other Local Enforcement Agencies.

The commissioners raised questions about absorbing allocated costs, the ability to make fluid decisions, and the layers of administration that may have no background in environmental law and issues. The purpose of the reorganization was questioned. There was a comment that many ordinances would need revision. Commissioner White suggested drafting a letter of concern regarding EMD's reorganization.

**6 Kiefer Landfill as a Regional Resource- Tim Israel, Senior Civil Engineer, Waste Management and Recycling, Sacramento County**

The Kiefer Landfill opened in 1967 and is currently 305 acres with 30,000,000 tons of garbage in place, only half the permitted footprint. There is enormous future capacity available. There are both federal and state minimum standards requirements for solid waste landfills but California standards are even more stringent. Groundwater monitors and air emissions are highly regulated. The Water Board mandated the first liner be installed in 1993. A groundwater treatment system was installed in 1995 and a landfill gas collection system in 1997 which partnered with the Kiefer landfill generating plant. The current Solid Waste Facility permit estimated closure date is 2035 but at the current fill rate the closure date could potentially be 2092. Rates/fees have remained level for the last 5-6 years.

The landfill receives 2,200 tons of fill per day and has a staff of 50. Small amounts of

recyclables are diverted to Kiefer but the main focus is burying trash and maximizing the amount of trash bulldozed into each cell to get the most cost benefit. By disposing of trash at local landfills and not trucking it to other states, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Capacity far exceeds the daily drop. The landfill can accept up to 10,815 tons per day and can service the entire Sacramento area. . The majority of city trash goes to Kiefer. Kiefer landfill also serves an essential resource for waste disposal in event of a natural disaster. There is a hazardous waste handling and storage area.

The energy plant was built in 1999 and partnered with Aria energy. Sacramento County owns three of the five engines. The power is sold to SMUD and can power approximately 10,000 homes. As landfills age, the gas collected doesn't supply the BTU's to be sold as energy.

The Kiefer Landfill is the site of a 244 acre Vernal Pool Preserve managed by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Endangered species with habitats at these pools include Orcutt grass, fairy shrimp, and tadpole shrimp. The Bufferlands is a 2000 acre preserve surrounding Kiefer that is owned by the County. It not only buffers the surrounding community from the landfill but it's managed as a preserve for agricultural lands, riparian habitat and vernal pools.

The landfill has an onsite stormwater retention basin to aid in recharging groundwater aquifers and plans to add the treatment plant water to the recharge water as well. They use sheep and goats for vegetation control at Kiefer and DWMR not only because it's green but because they eat the grass down to within inches of the soil, alleviating fire danger near pipes emitting gasses. Kiefer Landfill also works with Cal Recycle to develop applications for tire derived aggregate.

Landfills settle as trash decomposes. If improvements and public use structures such as parking lots and recreational spaces are put on the land soon after closure, they risk being unmaintainable and damaged.

**7** City of Sacramento, 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill As A Resource- John Febbo, City of Sacramento Recycling and Solid Waste Division, Integrated Waste Planning Superintendent

In 1950, the City of Sacramento was landfilling on two private lots. The City still has the liability for that trash but does not own the land. It would cost 3 ½ million dollars to close these two landfills. The City has acquired real estate for its landfill over the years and has tentative plans/ideas for how to repurpose this resource to benefit the public. Developing bike paths that connect pieces of the American River Parkway bike trail are high on the list. Caltrans is proposing running a freeway through the landfill.

Sutters Landing Fort land will eventually to be connected to the American River Bike

trail and McKinley Village is a recent new development across from landfill. Trades are a way of helping the city landfill and regional partners achieve compatible goals such as open space or land for new gas monitoring systems. One valuable regulatory effort has been fire recovery. Recently an RV started on fire adjacent to the landfill but the situation was quickly contained because the landfill had been mowed, fire fuel was reduced, and the fire didn't spread.

The City of Sacramento has installed new gas systems and new flares. It would like to postpone closure of the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill until Spring 2019, when the soil is softer and the dirt from the McKinley Park excavation will be available to use as cover for the closure.

Sutters Landing Park is a repurposed landfill. The dog park is great because landfills settle and but a dog park won't require future maintenance The Bocce court materials are stable but could become uneven in the future. The indoor skate park in the old Bailer building is a very popular and much used repurposing. The parking lot and basketball court at that site are no longer used due to settling. The bike trail has settled to the point where it cannot be repaired but needs to be excavated and filled, a costly project that is currently on hold.

The City is completing the Two Rivers bike trail extending all the way to the railroad trestle, about a mile addition. By 2020 it will connect to Sacramento State, cross the bridge and proceed all the way to Granite Bay. It's a section of bike trail that is in the one percent of rivers deemed "wild and scenic. "

Capital City Freeway widening project from E street to Arden may cross over some of the Sutter Street Landfill. The Sutter Landing group may resist the project because the freeway would be elevated which projects freeway noise. This project would recapture space and the old bridge could be repurposed as a public space with gazebos and become viewing spot, a community asset.

Possible future uses for the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill include soccer fields, animal habitats, a driving range and/or an urban mountain bike park. Funding determines when these projects could take place.

## **8** Approval of October 2017 Minutes

A motion was made by Eric Rivero Montes and seconded by Tony DeRiggi to approve the October Minutes.

Aye: Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann, Buzz Link, , Eric Rivero Montes, Mark White

Noes: None

Abstentions: Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba

## **9** Elect 2018 SEC Chair and SEC Vice-Chair Positions

Diane Kindermann made a motion to nominate Richard Hunn to continue as Chair for

2018. Motion seconded by Eric Rivero Montes.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann, Buzz Link, , Eric Rivero Montes, Mark White, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None

Tony DeRiggi motioned to nominate Eric Rivero Montes to continue as Vice Chair for 2018. Motion seconded by Margi Namba.

Ayes: : Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann, Buzz Link, , Eric Rivero Montes, Mark White, Mark Barry, Bob Bailey, Margie Namba  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None

**10** Permanent Committee Reports

1. 2017 Environmental Awards Committee  
Commissioner White encouraged outreach to local college sustainability program directors to apply for the annual awards.

**11** SEC Outreach

1. Agency Monitoring Report Back
2. Environmental Commission Outreach

**12** Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report- Marie Woodin

**13** Commissioner Comments

**14** Adjournment 8:30 p.m.– Next Meeting: Monday, January 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m. 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655

*This meeting is being audiotaped/vidiotaped 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](http://emd.saccounty.net). Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.*