
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 NOVEMBER 21, 2016
10590 ARMSTRONG AVE.
MATHER, CA 95655
6:00 P.M.**

1 Call to Order- Chair Hunn

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Eric Rivero-Montes, George “Buzz” Link, Margie Namba, Mark White

3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Hunn

4 Public Comment- Chair Hunn

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

5 Approval of July Minutes 2016

This item carried forward to the January 2017 meeting.

6 Approval of October Minutes 2016

This item carried forward to the January 2017 meeting.

7 Land Use and Wildlife Hazard Management, Sacramento County Airport-Glen Rickelton, Manager of Planning

Sacramento International Airport (SMF) is regulated to a higher degree than Sacramento County’s local airports. Land Use decisions for land surrounding

Approved 3/20/17

airports are made at the local level but federal and state legislatures have input as to how those decisions are made, enacting protections for the airport. In California, Public Utilities code 21670 calls for Airport Land Use Commissions, which is fulfilled by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. Land Use decisions by this Commission protects SMF from non-compatible land uses such as tall buildings, cell phone towers, bright lights, plumes of smoke from manufacturing near runways. Airport compatibility plans include airport influence areas so that in an airplane disaster the public is not harmed. Compatibility maps also take into consideration noise parameters and places limits on where future developments may be occur. Easements and notes on the deeds in new and future developments near an airport ensure that property owners are aware that planes will be flying over their house for an indefinite number of years. This is typically done in the development phase and prospective buyers receive a notice of the airport activities. This ensures future disclosure.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has protocols regarding the minimum distance an airport must be located away from wildlife attracting habits. Green spaces in housing developments can be abundant but designed to attract wildlife that is not hazardous to aircraft.

Local agencies do not have authority to limit activities at an airport, only the Federal government can do that.

Airports adhere to the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918 and to both the federal and state Endangered Species Acts. SMF works closely with State Fish and Wildlife, the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Wildlife attractants near the airport include agricultural lands, grasslands, wetlands, bridges tall grass, and even building structures that attract birds seeking shelter. Migratory waterfowl are the biggest hazard at SFM. Most damaging bird strikes happen 3-10 miles outside of SMF airport, in part because SMF does not have control outside of land use outside its area of influence.

If bird strikes occur, they are reported to the FAA and airports must do a Wildlife Hazard Assessment which ultimately becomes an approved Wildlife Hazard Management Plan. SMF employs two wildlife biologists.

Glen noted that the Airport has implemented procedures to review and consider the impact of routine activities on Airport lands that could affect environmental resources. These procedures were developed in response to past actions that caused adverse environmental impacts and required substantial mitigation and

compensation.

Wildlife Hazard Management techniques include habitat modification that reduce attractants. This passive management method includes maintaining grasslands at a height of 6"-12", installing underground fences and reducing aquatic and foraging habitat. Active management includes harassment techniques which include the use of propane cannons, distress calls, and exclusion devices. Only as a last resort, in the case of direct threat to human life, are migratory birds killed as a means of managing. Falconry and dogs are not a reliable and effective method of harassment, proving too unpredictable. Protected species at SMF are the Giant Garter Snake, Swainsons Hawk, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, and the Tricolored Blackbird. Ongoing wildlife issues at SMF include swallows, geese and ducks, mammals such as skunk, and humans feeding wild animals

The FAA Wildlife Strike Data Base reports that between the years 1990-2015, there were 170,607 reported strikes in the U.S. Of those, 13,478 were in California, with 2,659 occurring at SMF.

Although not yet widely used, drones may become helpful for aerial mapping or wildlife harassment measures needed on the outside of tall airport structures.

8 Review of Action Items From Past Meetings

1. Reschedule Topics 2017 Subcommittee Meeting- Meeting scheduled for December 20th.

9 Commissioner DeRiggi to Clarify Bill Language Regarding How The Lower American River Conservancy Board Is Selected.

Carried forward to the January meeting.

10 Review of SEC website- Eric Rivero-Montes

Commissioners asked for the addition of a bullet in the Featured Issues dropdown menu on the webpage titled "Actions Taken", which would include a listing of letters of support or actions.

11 Report Back from Chair Hunn on the Cyanobacteria Subcommittee Meeting and Possible Future Strategy.

The Cyanobacteria subcommittee met and compiled several areas of concern that the commissioners were then asked to research further. Several commissioners volunteered to report back at the January meeting on their analysis. The City of

Sacramento has expressed concerned about cyanobacteria at their intake plant in Old Town Sacramento.

Action: Secretary to forward government site with Blue Green Algae Map to Commissioners.

Review of Draft Table of Contents for the Proposed Annual SEC Report- Richard Hunn

The Commission has decided to submit an annual report to appointing authorities each year. Commissioners reviewed the Table of Contents drafted by Chair Hunn.

Action: Send Electronic copy of Commissioner Bailey’s annual summary report to all Commissioners.

12 Sacramento County Environmental Management Director’s Report- Marie Woodin, Chief of Environmental Compliance

13 Elections for Chair

Richard Hunn nominated by Margie Namba, seconded by George “Buzz” Link. Mark White motioned that nominations be closed, seconded by Eric Rivero Montes.

Vote on Nominations Closed:

Aye: Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Eric Rivero-Montes, George “Buzz” Link, Marie Namba, Mark White

Opposed: None

Vote on Election of Richard Hunn for Chair 2017

Aye: Richard Hunn, Dana Curran, Eric Rivero-Montes, George “Buzz” Link, Marie Namba, Mark White

Noes: None

Vote on Vice Chair 2017

Dana Curran was nominated by Margie Namba, seconded by Eric Rivero Montes. Mark White moved that nominations be closed, seconded by Richard Hunn.

Vote on Nominations Closed:

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

Noes: None

Vote on Dana Curran as Vice Chair 2017

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

Noes: None

14 **Agency Monitoring Report Back**

Commissioners reported back on issues they are monitoring from other local government entities.

15 **Commissioner Comments**

16 **Adjournment-** 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 23st, 2017 at the EMD office, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655