
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, SEPTEMBER 19, 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, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Margie Namba, Diane Kindermann, Robert Bailey, Mark Barry, George "Buzz" Link

3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Hunn

4 Public Comment- Chair Hunn

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

5 Approval of June 2016 Minutes

Approval of the June minutes will carry forward to the October 2016 meeting as a quorum from the June meeting was not present to vote.

6 Approval of July Minutes 2016

Approval of the July minutes will carry forward to the October 2016 meeting as a quorum from the July meeting was not present to vote.

7 Approval of August Minutes 2016

Vote to approve the August 2016 minutes, motion by Robert Bailey, second by Anthony DeRiggi.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Anthony DeRiggi, Eric Rivero-Montes, Margie Namba, Diane Kindermann, Robert Bailey

Noes: None

Abstain: Mark Barry, Buzz Link

Minutes passed by a vote of six.

8 **Review of Action Items From Prior Meetings.**

The following action items were reviewed by the commissioners.

1. Letter of Support for placarding mobile food facilities will be drafted by Richard Hunn and sent to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chair and Clerk of the Board by Friday, August 19th. Letter was sent to Chair MacGlashan and the Clerk of the Board on Tuesday, August 16th, 2016.
2. Comment letter regarding the South County Wastewater Recycling Project EIR will be drafted by Richard Hunn and sent to Mr. Ramirez at the Regional Sanitation District by August 19th, 2016. The comment letter was sent via email to Mr. Ramirez on August 18th, 2016.
3. Commissioner DeRiggi requested to reconvene the webpage committee. Secretary Koehn met with the IT Department to request an update on the re-formatted SEC webpage. A test webpage should be available for viewing at the September 19th meeting. **Action:** A walkthrough of the revised SEC website will take place at the October meeting.
4. Commissioner Namba was going to look into potential speakers for light rail options and parking solutions at the new Arena if an environmental aspect to the topic could be identified. Commissioner Namba has reached out to AECOM Engineering regarding this topic. **Action:** Chair Hunn to give contact information for the Environmental Science Associates (ESA) project manager to Commissioner Namba to further explore traffic management/environmental issues.

9 **Cyanobacteria in Sacramento Waterways- Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Environmental Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board and Jon Marshack, Executive Director of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council**

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS) have been increasing worldwide and in California due to several factors. HABS are linked to warmer water temperatures, elevated nutrient levels, decreased water flow due to drought and decreased run off, and low reservoirs. Although this is not a new environmental issue its presence is steadily increasing and requires that a more formal strategy be developed. HABS are affecting swimming and recreation, potentially groundwater, fish and shellfish harvesting, domestic animals and wildlife. Microcystis is the most common form of Cyanobacteria, a large category within HABS, which can, but not always, produce toxins called microcystins. The presence of green algae in waterways should not be confused with similar looking HABS. Green algae but does not pose any toxic threat to wildlife or humans.

HABS can be found in lakes, wetlands, rivers, estuaries and marine waters. The blooms can attach themselves to the substrate in rivers and streams and produce the toxin, which is then carried to other bodies of water. California has developed thresholds for toxins in waterways, which can cause liver damage, respiratory failure and heart failure when ingested or inhaled. Even skin contact can cause illness. Thresholds vary depending on whether the source is drinking water or recreational water. Freshwater toxins reached record levels in 2014-2015, in bodies of water up and down California. Many lakes were officially closed and several dog deaths were attributed to toxins.

Microcystins are cumulative and transfer from fresh water to salt water organisms and water bodies. Shellfish can accumulate toxins which are then transferred to animals that eat them, such as otters, which accumulate the toxins and eventually experience organ failure when levels are high enough.

MyWaterQuality is a collaborative portal containing the most up to date guidance, locations and analysis of current blooms and toxin levels in CA. The site relies on HAB reports from the public, satellite imagery and volunteer samplers to submit information which is then verified and mapped out on the portal. Resources for public health officials, water purveyors, lake and reservoir managers and the public are available 24/7, including video recorded trainings on HABS.

Eric Haupt, Environmental Specialist at the Environmental Management Department (EMD), explained the Environmental Management Departments' role. Sacramento County monitors water flows and temperatures three times per week at four public access spots along the American River. On average, flows have been 14,000 cubic feet per second which is very good. EMD follows Cyanobacteria

procedural guidelines outlined by CDPH. Last year was the first alleged case of cyanobacteria. EMD makes use of last years' water flow rates and temperature recordings as a baseline for indicators of potential harmful algal bloom activity this year. If the presence of HABs are suspected in local waterways, then EMD will implement the use of test strips to sample the water, also referring to MyWaterQuality portal for the most recent information on blooms. The harmful algal bloom months tend to be July through October. As temperatures cool off the threat of bloom disappears until the next year. Sacramento waterways tend to have good flows and straight pathways so may experience less algal blooms.

Public waterways are the monitoring priority. Other water bodies that may be stagnant and contain high nutrient loads are watched such closely as well, such as may be found on a golf courses. It's important to establish a location history of past blooms and species of cyanobacteria that were present in local waterbodies. Water system managers can then be on alert as the threat of HABs and toxins increases near their managed water bodies. All water bodies are susceptible to harmful algal blooms but the presence of blooms doesn't mean that toxins will be produced. Triggers vary greatly.

HABs toxins have been detected on lettuce and strawberries grown in Southern California so there is a concern that irrigation water can contain toxins and contaminate food. Studies also show that HABs toxins are cumulative and fish accumulate toxins in their livers and fillets of their meat.

The warning signs that are posted informing the public of possible dangers in waterways due to Cyanobacteria are translated in English and Spanish. Commissioner Namba brought up the need to have the signs translated into languages that inform the Asian population that often use the waterways for food sources. Signs instruct people to rinse fish when toxin levels are high and not to eat the fish when certain thresholds are reached. Signage is controlled by the California Cyanohab Network, a collaboration of several state agencies. Educating the public about toxic blooms is the primary need for action right now.

Action: At the next SEC meeting on October 18th, allow time for a five minute public service announcement on cyanobacteria awareness.

Action: Subcommittee to be formed to establish strategy for SEC action regarding Cyanobacteria at the local level. Commissioners Kindermann, Namba, Hunn and Link volunteered to be on this commission.

10 **Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report-** Zarha Ruiz, Acting Deputy Chief, Environmental Health

11 **Agency Monitoring Report Back**

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

12 **Commissioner Comments**

Chair Hunn: Update to the Bay Delta Water Control Plan is open for comments. Chair Hunn asked for a volunteer to review the plan for any areas that the commission may be interested in hearing a report back on. Buzz Link volunteered to read the plan.

Action: Volunteers for subcommittee to schedule the presentation topics for 2017: Volunteers for the subcommittee include Commissioners Kindermann, Rivero-Montes, Namba and DeRiggi. Commissioner Kindermann will send out potential dates for that meeting. To be completed by end of November.

Action: Walk through the revised SEC website at the televised meeting in October.

Action: Commissioner DeRiggi to follow up on criteria for how the representatives for the American River Conservancy are chosen.

Action: Commissioner Link agreed to lead a presentation on local small water purveyors in 2017.

13 **Adjournment-** 7:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 18th, 2016 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814