

# Sacramento Environmental Commission

**A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:**

County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City of Isleton  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt  
City of Elk Grove



**February 2017**

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# Sacramento Environmental Commission

## 2016 Annual Report

Prepared for:

County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City of Isleton  
City of Folsom  
City of Galt  
City of Elk Grove

Submitted on February 10, 2017

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## Comments of the 2016 Sacramento Environmental Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

The primary function and responsibility of the Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) is to provide information and analysis to advise the County Board of Supervisors and City Councils for purposes of implementing comprehensive environmental protection and, upon request, aid, advise and recommend information and other measures to other departments that will promote environmental quality.

The SEC is composed of local citizens with a broad range of technical expertise and knowledge of environmental topics with backgrounds in engineering, environmental sciences, natural resource or environmental planning, and medicine. The combination of this expertise enables the SEC to discuss, consider, and contribute advice on a wide range of environmental issues facing local decision makers.

During its monthly meetings, the SEC solicits information from a variety of agencies, interest groups, and the public with knowledge or expertise on specific topics. Where a matter that warrants SEC action is identified, the SEC prepares advisory recommendations to its appointing authorities for further consideration and implementation.

The SEC undertook a special effort in 2016 to identify and track potential changes to the Sacramento County environment that could result from projects, policies, and programs being implemented by local agencies in Sacramento County. As part to this effort, SEC Commissioners selected specific agencies or topics to monitor based on their individual expertise, interest, or knowledge.

Several important topics were identified by Commissioners that warranted the SEC to prepare advisory letters to its sponsors that identified specific issues for further consideration. In some cases, the SEC recommended a course of action that would contribute to protecting the environment or improve environmental quality. The advisory letters prepared by the SEC are presented in this report to highlight our activities.



Richard Hunn, Chair 2016



Dana Curran, Vice Chair 2016

## Introduction

The SEC prepared this 2016 Annual Report to inform member agencies and the public at large of SEC activities, discussions, advisory positions, and concerns in respect to the environment of Sacramento County. It is our intent that in the future, this report will be prepared on an annual basis to describe the work accomplished by the SEC.

This report is designed to focus on the key actions performed and key topics discussed by the SEC during 2016. Interested persons who wish to review topics considered and actions completed by the SEC are invited to review our meeting minutes that are maintained by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department which can be contacted by email at [sec@saccounty.net](mailto:sec@saccounty.net). The SEC webpage can be viewed at <http://emd.saccounty.net/sec/>.

## Roster of Commissioners and Staff (Listed by appointing authority)

<b>County of Sacramento (5)</b>	Richard Hunn, 2016 Chair Dana Curran, 2016 Vice Chair Margie Namba George "Buzz" Link Mark White
<b>City of Sacramento (3)</b>	Dr. Anthony DeRiggi Mark Barry Diane Kindermann
<b>Elk Grove (1)</b>	Eric Rivero-Montes
<b>Folsom, Isleton, Galt (1)</b>	Robert D. Bailey
<b>Staff</b>	Val Siebal, Director, Environmental Management Department Jill Koehn, Executive Secretary, Environmental Management Department

## Key Actions in 2016

During the course of the year, the SEC held 11 public meetings to receive information and data from selected parties with expertise in specific topics and issues. In addition, the SEC received several requests to advise other County and City authorities and agencies on environmental matters and other relevant environmental topics.

As a result of receiving this information or request, the SEC prepared and released several advisory statements for the consideration of these other agencies and decision makers.

The key actions performed by the SEC during 2016 included:

### **Recommendation Supporting Ordinance to Restrict Single-Use Carryout Bags**

– In an action following up on its March 2015 recommendation encouraging adoption of uniform local single-use plastic bag restrictions, the SEC submitted an advisory recommendation to

adopt the proposed addition of Chapter 6.130 to the County Code establishing a restriction in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County on the use of single-use plastic bags.

SEC Chair Richard Hunn presented the March 2, 2016 recommendation<sup>1</sup> to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors (Board) at a public workshop on March 22, 2016 addressing the proposed ordinance. The SEC reiterated its recommendation in an April 21, 2016 letter<sup>2</sup> recognizing the leadership of the Board in restricting single-use plastic bags. SEC Commissioner Dr. Anthony DeRiggi spoke in favor of the proposed restrictions at the final public hearing to adopt the ordinance.

**Recommendation for the Proposed Florin Perkins Public Disposal Site Material Recovery Facility/Large Value Transfer System** – The SEC was requested by Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. (Zanker) to review and provide comment on its proposal to modify and expand its materials recycling operations in the City of Sacramento. The SEC received a presentation from Zanker and SEC Commissioners reviewed the CEQA document addressing the proposed project.

The SEC prepared an advisory letter<sup>3</sup> and noted the value of the project to the community. The SEC recommended that the permit for this project include a condition that restricts nighttime operations until the time that additional noise mitigation measures are implemented and proved to reduce noise exposure on adjacent lands to acceptable levels.

**Comments on the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program Draft Environmental Impact Report** – The SEC submitted comments<sup>4</sup> to the SRCSD Draft EIR addressing the proposed recycled water program during the CEQA public review period. The SEC noted its support to reduce treated wastewater discharges to surface waterways and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to increase wastewater recycling for beneficial use by local agricultural users and environmental resources.

The SEC, however, noted two topics in the Draft EIR that warranted reconsideration, including the potential effects on vegetation and wildlife habitat associated with installation of the recycled water transmission pipeline in the 250-foot-wide impact area and whether proposed mitigation to avoid effecting State Water Project deliveries was needed or appropriate.

**Support for the Proposed Ordinance to Include Mobile Food Facility Placard Program** – The SEC held a public meeting to hear a presentation addressing the proposed inclusion of the existing food safety placarding program for mobile food facilities.

Based on the information presented, the SEC found that implementation of this program would not result in greater regulatory burden or costs to mobile food operators. In addition, it would

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1 See advisory letter presented in Appendix A.

2 See advisory letter presented in Appendix A.

3 See advisory letter presented in Appendix A.

4 See advisory letter presented in Appendix A.

create a uniform public information tool consistent with the ongoing placarding program for stationary restaurants and retail food facilities in Sacramento County.

The SEC prepared an advisory letter<sup>5</sup> and recommended adoption of the proposed ordinance and implementation of this program to the Board of Supervisors.

**SEC Website Update** - The SEC worked with County IT staff to create a new homepage which is more attractive and user-friendly. Meeting schedules, minutes, and past presentations are now all readily accessible.

The webpage can be viewed at: <http://www.emd.saccounty.net/SEC/Pages/default.aspx>

A new on-line application page for the annual SEC Environmental Awards was created to make it easier to nominate candidates for recognition. Also, the new "*Learn more about how to help your community*" link was updated to provide a comprehensive resource for Sacramento County residents to enhance learning more about local environmental issues. Users will now find 75 links to local public agencies and environmental topics listed under the following categories:

- Air quality and climate change
- Green landscaping, agriculture
- Energy conservation
- Environmental health and food safety
- Environmental justice
- Land use planning
- Solid waste, recycling and hazardous waste
- Transportation
- Water
- Fish and Wildlife

## Key Meeting Topics

The SEC received 19 presentations addressing a wide range of issues and topics related to the environmental quality of Sacramento County and surrounding cities. The following summary describes key meeting topics that were considered by the SEC during 2016.

## 75%Waste Recycling Goal Update –

Howard Levenson, Deputy Director, Materials Management and Local Assistance Division, CalRecycle

Policy Drivers of the 75% Initiative primarily include:

- AB 341 implements a 75% statewide recycling goal by 2020 which complements, not supersedes, the AB 939 mandate on jurisdictions to divert 50% of waste from landfills.
- Organic waste is a large part of waste heading to landfills, so AB 32 and AB 1826 require 90% diversion of organic waste from landfills by 2025 and commercial organics recycling by businesses producing 8 cubic yards or more. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) no longer counts towards meeting the organic diversion percentage requirement.

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<sup>5</sup> See advisory letter presented in Appendix A.



- Reducing organics in landfills reduces methane emissions which aids in meeting air quality goals.

Other drivers include the protection of public health and safety. CalRecycle achieves that through the recycling of beverage containers, electronics, waste tires and used oil. Extended producer responsibility is being required, specifically for carpet, mattress and paint producers. The beverage container-recycling program (CRV) is a \$1.4 billion program with an 80% success rate. Returning bottles to retrieve the 5 cent deposit has proved so successful that Cal Recycle is actually losing money as they pay out more for cans/bottles that are turned in than they make with the .05 cent deposit program.

Challenges to achieving the 75% recycling goal include lack of markets and manufacturing capacity. Paper constitutes a large part of the recycling stream but with a very limited market for waste paper in the U.S., it gets shipped to Asia. The same is true for glass waste. Green and organic waste is very heavy so shipping it overseas is not an option. Regional infrastructure will be needed to handle the organic waste and recycle it to meet the new organic waste diversion requirements. Jurisdictions will be responsible for the education, outreach and site visits of the mandated organics program, beginning in 2016.

Barriers to infrastructure development needed to meet the legislated diversion goals include the low landfill tipping fees in the U.S., which do not bring in sufficient revenue to fund the building of new infrastructure, the limited demand for recycled feedstock and local opposition to siting new facilities. Organic Waste diversion is challenging as the waste is putrescible and odorous so that composting piles can be an odor nuisance, unless the process is properly managed. Compost is also subject to metals and pathogens standards so organic waste needs to be processed into compost.

Funding incentives are available to encourage local projects/programming for composting, digesting and producing alternative fuels. CalRecycle has posted the funding possibilities on their webpage, including grants and loans from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Project possibilities include organics waste processing facilities, food bank infrastructure and food waste rescue and prevention programs.

## **Sacramento County Parks Management/ Maintenance –** Jeff Leatherman, Director of Sacramento County Parks and Recreation

Sacramento County Regional Parks owns and is responsible for approximately 15,000 acres extending from north County south to the tip of the Delta, including 4 golf courses. There are 8,000,000 visitor days per year at the American River Parkway, 23 miles of which Sacramento County is responsible for managing.

The Sacramento County Regional Parks Department is in the process of rebuilding its personnel capacity which was reduced in 2010 when the recession forced cuts in staff. The Regional Parks Service Review Report presented to the Board of Supervisors is the benchmark for explaining the current and long terms service delivery of Sacramento County Regional Parks.

The Regional Parks Department utilizes partnerships and concessions to optimize service delivery, such as Elk Grove Regional Park which is owned by the County but run and operated by the Cosumnes Community Services District. Golf course management is also contracted out by Sacramento County Parks and Recreation. Preserves owned by the County are managed in coordination with other agencies such as conservancies. Deer Creek Hills preserve is owned by the County but primarily managed by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Effie Nature Center is run by nonprofit partners because the Parks budget can't support this service. A community funding district (CFD) funds the bike trails at Mather Independence. The Regional Parks Department performs the landscaping and maintenance of all county owed buildings.

Regional Parks maintains relationships with other expert organizations such as the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Bureau of Land Management as many of the functions of preservation and management often cross agency boundaries. A creative funding opportunity occurs at the Cosumnes Preserve where an organic rice farm operation funds the position of the volunteer coordinator.

Rangers in the Regional Parks Department work closely with the Sacramento Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. Accident rates are now being tracked as fire department, rangers and emergency responders are working together and sharing information to respond to accidents and collect data. 311 can be dialed to report dangerous behavior on the parkway such as speeding bicyclists or illegal camping.

Over the next 3-5 years, the Regional Parks Department will take on the operations of more parks; assuming operations of the Mather Preserve and managing the contract, management of the Alder Creek Parkway of the Easton Development, 106 acres of parks in the future Cordova Hills Development and planning for trails in the Jackson Corridor project. They are collaborating with the Department of Transportation working to connect trails in all parts of the county in order to alleviate traffic on the Parkway. Fees and revenues have remained flat and there is no intention of raising the yearly park pass fee of \$50.00 or parking fees of \$5.00, at this time.

Deferred maintenance is an important and costly issue as the Regional Parks Department looks to repairing asphalt on trails and buildings containing asbestos. They are partnering with the California Department of General Services to categorize deferred maintenance priorities.

Commissioner DeRiggi asked about installing recycling containers on trails. Director Leatherman responded that although the receptacles are high maintenance for staff, the perception of recycling is important and he is planning on having more bear proof recycling containers put along the trail.

Director Leatherman explained that \$2,000,000 of the annual \$6,000,000 budget, and 2 full time ranger teams, are needed to address the widespread problem of illegal camping. The root causes of homelessness and illegal camping are managed by Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services, and Sacramento Steps Forward.

The Commission agreed to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors that supports staffing requests submitted in the Regional Parks Department Budget before the June Preliminary Budget Hearings.

## **Environmental Management Department Program Review –**

Kelly McCoy, Acting Chief, Zarha Ruiz, Acting Deputy Chief of Environmental Health and Marie Woodin, Chief of Environmental Compliance.

There are 13 programs within the Environmental Health (EH) Division of EMD, staffed by 50 Environmental Specialists. The largest and most widely known is the Food Protection program, which permits and inspects approximately 5500 retail food facilities 3 times each year, including jails and hospitals. The red yellow green placarding system used by Sacramento County has won many awards for its efficient and easy to understand grading system. EMD provides free Food Safety education classes in our training rooms in six different languages and online, as well as the online video, “How to Get a Green.”

Another large program within the EH Division is Recreational Health. EMD inspects approximately 2200 public, commercial and multifamily pools and spas each year, for compliance with State and Local Health code. The Body Art Program is relatively new, following the enactment of the Safe Body Art Act, and includes inspections during temporary tattoo events and of the 100 permanent facilities. Construction Plan Review is another program that falls within EH. As part of the licensing procedure, any retail food facility, public pool or spa, or recreational aquatic feature that is built or remodeled must be approved by EMD Plan Review Staff. Other programs that fall under EH include stormwater, tobacco retailers (the legal purchasing age for tobacco products and e-cigarettes is now 21), noise, cottage food, employee housing (such as seasonal farm worker camps) detention facilities, and lead investigations.

The Environmental Compliance (EC) Department houses 19 programs and also acts as a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). As a CUPA, EMD has the delegated authority to regulate underground storage tanks, above ground storage tanks, hazardous materials release and hazardous materials generators. There are approximately 5000 businesses regulated under this program. Businesses storing and generating hazardous waste are required to file hazardous material plans (HMP) so that in the event of a release, responders are informed about what kinds of hazards may be present and where they are physically located on the site.

The Incident Response (IR) Team is located within the EC Division and maintained with six staff. EMD responded to 686 chemical incidences last year. IR staff oversee proper cleanup and disposal of hazardous wastes and chemicals after accidental release.

Wells are regulated by EC, including water wells, monitoring wells and abandoned wells. Abandoned wells pose a threat to ground water, humans and animals and EMD uses Google mapping to locate wells and work with the land owner to properly destroy, cap or recommission them. Well hazards also include the potential leaking of bacteria, pesticides, hazardous chemicals and sediment into groundwater and soil.

Medical waste, solid waste, land use and recycling are also programs overseen by EC.

The cross connection program ensures that contaminants in water are not flowing back into drinking water systems and requires annual testing of cross connection safety devices. EMD has utilized innovative technology that allows cross flow prevention testers to load data and results directly into an online portal that is then uploaded by EMD to the State reporting system, saving labor hours and cutting costs to consumers.

Small water systems are also regulated and monitored by the EC Division to ensure that safe, adequate and dependable water is delivered to consumers.

## **Annual Review of Public Health of Sacramento County -** Dr. Kasirye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer

Dr. Kasirye reviewed the death statistics in Sacramento County and noted that the leading two causes of death across all ethnicities are consistently cancer and heart disease. Dr. Kasirye has a strong interest in community changes that would contribute to individual health since heart disease includes lifestyle components that can be modified. She also voiced concern regarding the statistics for the leading causes of death in persons ages 15-24, which should be the healthiest age group. Accidents, which include overdosing incidents, homicide and suicide, are the top three causes of death for this group.

The Sacramento County Public Health Department is applying for accreditation which has required the completion of a countywide health assessment and a Community Health Improvement Plan. Seven priority actions derived from the county assessment were included in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

1. Disparities in Infant Death
2. Sexually Transmitted Disease
3. Opioid Poisoning
4. Heart Disease
5. Adverse Childhood Experiences
6. Oral Health
7. Emerging Infectious Diseases

Zip codes identified as underserved in the County correspond to the same regions showing high statistical rates in the seven priority categories. African American statistics in several categories can be up to three times higher than other ethnic groups. The disparities in the rate of black infant deaths remained above the target range even when the economy improved and other ethnic groups fell within the target range. Recessions impact the infant death rate due to cuts in services, job loss and stress. Infant Death statistics are used as a “bell weather” indicator of community health. In 2015, the Board of Supervisors created a Steering Committee to address the high black infant death rate and create strategies for the County to impact and reverse this statistic. Steering Committee members include health agencies, hospitals and education members. It’s estimated that it could take up to five years to see a decline in that statistic.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) are increasing in Sacramento County. Although the number of cases reported may be increasing, this rise could also be attributed to more testing with accurate results.

Increasing reports of Chlamydia and Syphilis in the county across all walks of life are very concerning. STDs are a huge drain on resources and services. Hepatitis C statistics are also rising with increased testing. One possible measure to control Hepatitis C transmission is a County needle exchange program similar to the City of Sacramento's. The ideal solution to Hepatitis C would be decreased drug use but in lieu of that, harm reduction efforts are necessary to decrease the spread of disease.

Shigellosis has also seen a sharp increase locally and nationally. Flint, Michigan's sharp increase may be due to the fact that people stopped washing their hands in response to the lead in the water system.

Opioid poisoning is both a national and local crisis. Opioid poisoning includes overdoses of heroin, prescription drugs, and drugs sold on the streets posing as the prescription drug. Heroin is being laced with Fentanyl, one reason there is an uptick in deaths. There were 12 overdose deaths in Sacramento County in March of 2016, due to heroin laced with Fentanyl.

Dr. Kasirye addressed the infectious diseases Ebola and Zika. The CDC has declared an end to monitoring for Ebola and although Zika is an emerging disease, it has not yet been identified in Sacramento. The Sacramento Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District is an instrumental partner in controlling and detecting vectors where mosquitos breed which is key in preventing the spread of Zika.

Sacramento Public Health is in the process of filling in recognized gaps in servicing some of the seven priorities. Chronic disease, such as heart disease and stroke, and oral health are two difficult areas to address. Active transportation and the built environment are long term changes that can be prioritized in the future utilizing planning department codes and transit improvement. Adverse childhood experiences are being addressed by intentionally linking children in the Child Protective Services system to therapeutic services early in CPS intervention.

## **Facility/Project Tours**

SEC Commissioners routinely tour or conduct site reviews of important facilities and public features that contribute to the environmental quality of our communities. In 2016, project tours were limited to the Golden 1 Center which underwent substantial review by EMD food safety inspectors during its construction.

### **Golden 1 Center**

Golden 1 Center is officially the "greenest" arena in the Country. The Sacramento Kings new home in Sacramento has been certified LEED Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council, "the highest level of global recognition for environmentally conscious buildings and organizations."

Golden 1 Center will be powered during the day by solar panels on the building's roof. LEED Platinum is given to projects that meet strict standards in energy use, water efficiency, transportation impacts and the materials used in construction.

Lillis, Ryan. "Golden 1 Center wins 'greenest' pedigree." *The Sacramento Bee* 22 September 2016: 4A.

## **2015 Environmental Recognition Awards**

The SEC has annually awarded recognition to groups, companies, and other entities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving environmental quality that exceeds minimum requirements or provides leadership in the County and participating communities.

Each year, the SEC reviews and modifies its award process to increase public interest and the number of nominations to receive the awards. In 2016, the SEC awarded the following recipients for their efforts in 2015.

**City of Elk Grove, County of Sacramento and City of Rancho Cordova** produced and distributed an educational publication for consumers titled "The Usual Suspects" about how to dispose of household hazardous waste materials. An estimated 344,300 readers were reached with the colorful, informative and entertaining publication. This means of distribution is one of the primary ways the public learns about household hazardous waste and how to dispose of and/or recycle it.

**City of Elk Grove Elementary School Recycling Education Program** partnered with local schools and teachers, and provided educational outreach to school age children on identifying household hazardous wastes and the principles of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." The program provides visual aids, hands on opportunities and imparts awareness as to how individual behavior affects the environment. As of February 2016, 4,871 students have been reached and 15 out of 20 local schools have been visited.

**Walk Sacramento-Design 4 Active Sacramento** has advanced policies for active design and the built environment that promote the reduction of chronic illness, improved air quality, increased tree canopies, increased physical activity and use of public transit and non-motorized transportation opportunities. The guidelines created by this cross sector health team are now included in Sacramento County's updated zoning code and design guidelines, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in July 2015.

**The Melting Pot** has gone above and beyond in implementing sustainable and environmentally friendly business practices, including the use of induction warmers, LED lighting, variable speed refrigeration motors and water efficient, low temperature dishwashers.

## APPENDIX A

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## ***SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION***

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*Robert Bailey*  
*Mark Barry*  
*Secret Charles-Ford*  
*Dana M. Curran, Vice Chair*  
*Dr. Anthony DeRiggi*  
*Richard Hunn*  
*George "Buzz" Link, Chair*  
*Marjorie M. Namba*  
*Mark White*

**A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:**  
*County of Sacramento*  
*City of Sacramento*  
*City Folsom*  
*City of Elk Grove*  
*City of Galt*  
*City of Isleton*

March 2, 2015

Phil Serna, Chair  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 1450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Recommendation to Support the Adoption of Local Ordinances that Restrict Single Use Plastic Bags

Dear Chair Serna,

The Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove and Sacramento on environmental issues facing our communities.

In September 2014, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 270 (SB 270) to regulate the use of single-use plastic bags with the intent of reducing litter in the environment and potential hazards to wildlife. The new law eliminated the use of single-use plastic bags in larger grocery stores in 2015 and would eliminate them in smaller convenience stores in 2016. The use of reusable plastic bags is not affected by this law.

After several unsuccessful lawsuits, the plastic bag manufacturing industry has recently placed a referendum to repeal the statewide restrictions on the November 2016 state ballot. If passed, the statewide restrictions enacted by the Legislature would be revoked.



Over 138 individual California communities have adopted local restrictions on single-use plastic bags, affecting about 38 million Californians. The cities of San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and many other Bay Area communities have already adopted restrictions on the use of single-use plastic bags through local ordinances. These local restrictions have been found to be very effective. For example, in the City of Solana Beach, with a population of about 13,000 residents, single-use plastic bag restrictions adopted in 2012 have eliminated about 6.5 million single use plastic bags in that community alone. The SEC has concluded that restrictions on single-use plastic bag use would provide a substantial environmental benefit to communities in Sacramento County, would not pose an undue burden to residents, and would reduce the cost to collect litter when released to the environment.

The SEC wishes to encourage Sacramento County communities to adopt uniform local restrictions on the use of single-use plastic bags, enacting consistent ordinances enforceable within all Sacramento County communities. A uniform set of restrictions, similar to those being reconsidered by the City of Sacramento and patterned after SB 270, would provide consistent guidance that would effectively eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags. Uniform regulations would also avoid individual community restrictions that may cause confusion to the public and retailers, such as grocery stores, within Sacramento County.

Enacting local ordinances to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags would enhance the quality of our environment by reducing a source of litter, a threat to local aesthetics, and hazards to terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The SEC believes that enacting uniform local ordinances to control single-use plastic bag would provide a substantial environmental benefit to our communities and provide consistent guidance that would minimize potential confusion and costly implementation of individual local restrictions.

The SEC recommends your consideration of a community-specific single-use plastic bag restriction ordinance. If you have any questions, please contact SEC Secretary Jill Koehn at (916) 875-8584.

Sincerely,



George "Buzz" Link, Chair,  
Sacramento Environmental Commission

[1http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=68D67EC8-7D90-48CE-AE05-0DE5B6795D82&DE=A6CDF04D-CA28-4F9D-ABBF-E37A1290CA45&Type=B\\_PR](http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=68D67EC8-7D90-48CE-AE05-0DE5B6795D82&DE=A6CDF04D-CA28-4F9D-ABBF-E37A1290CA45&Type=B_PR)

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## **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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*A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:  
County of Sacramento  
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City of Elk Grove  
City of Galt  
City of Isleton*

April 18, 2016

**Via Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail**

Roberta MacGlashan, Chair  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 1450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Ordinance Adding Chapter 6.130 to the Sacramento County Code Relating to the Reduction of Simple-Use Carryout Bags  
April 26, 2016 – Board of Supervisors Meeting

Dear Chair MacGlashan,

The Sacramento Environmental Commission ("SEC") is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove and Sacramento on environmental issues facing our communities.

### **Background**

In September 2014, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 270 (SB 270) regulating the use of single-use plastic bags with the intent of reducing litter in the environment and potential hazards to wildlife. The new law eliminated the use of single-use plastic bags in larger grocery stores in 2015 and would eliminate them in smaller convenience stores in 2016. The use of reusable plastic bags is not affected by this law.

After several unsuccessful lawsuits, the plastic bag manufacturing industry has recently placed a referendum to repeal the statewide restrictions on the November 2016 state ballot. If passed, the statewide restrictions enacted by the Legislature would be revoked.

At the March 8, 2016 Sacramento County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) meeting, the Board held a workshop to discuss the merits of establishing an ordinance to ban single-use carryout bags in unincorporated Sacramento County and to receive public testimony regarding the same. The Board directed staff to prepare an ordinance for introduction on March 22, 2016 with an implementation date of July 1, 2016 (“Ordinance”). Following introduction of the Ordinance on this date, staff would launch a month long outreach campaign (Phase One) to notify and educate unincorporated County residents and businesses of the proposed requirements. Staff proposed a presentation of the Ordinance to the Board for adoption on April 26, 2016. Should the Ordinance be adopted, staff will initiate a two-month outreach campaign (Phase Two) working with affected businesses to ensure compliance with the requirements and continue efforts to inform residents.

Over 138 individual California communities have adopted local restrictions on single-use plastic bags, affecting about 38 million Californians. The cities of San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland and many other Bay Area communities have already adopted restrictions on the use of single-use plastic bags through local ordinances. These local restrictions have been found to be very effective. For example, in the City of Solana Beach, with a population of about 13,000 residents, single-use plastic bag restrictions adopted in 2012 have eliminated about 6.5 million single use plastic bags in that community alone. The SEC has concluded that restrictions on single-use plastic bag use would provide a substantial environmental benefit to communities in Sacramento County, would not pose an undue burden to residents, and would reduce the cost to collect litter when released to the environment.

### **SEC Encourages Adoption of the Ordinance**

Consistent with its March 2, 2015 correspondence, the SEC reiterates its March 2015 recommendation to adopt uniform local restrictions as defined in the proposed Chapter 6.130 to be added to the Sacramento County Code.

The SEC further wishes to encourage Sacramento County communities to individually adopt uniform local restrictions on the use of single-use plastic bags, thereby enacting consistent ordinances enforceable within all Sacramento County communities. A uniform set of restrictions will provide consistent guidance that would effectively eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags. Uniform regulations would also avoid individual community restrictions that may cause confusion to the public and retailers, such as grocery stores, within Sacramento County.

### **Conclusion**

Both the public and businesses want continuity rather than inconsistent policies and procedures that cause confusion and business uncertainty. Adopting the Ordinance now will provide the continuity for stable business planning and public acceptance. Enacting local ordinances to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags would enhance the quality of our

environment by reducing a source of litter, hazards to terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and a threat to local aesthetics. The Ordinance will result in a cost savings to the County of \$200,000 annually, which is what the County currently spends cleaning up plastic bags from roadways, parks and landfills. The SEC believes that enacting uniform local ordinances to control single-use plastic bags would provide a substantial environmental benefit to our communities and provide consistent guidance that would minimize potential confusion and costly implementation of individualized local restrictions.

The SEC recommends your approval of the adoption of Chapter 6.130 to the Sacramento County Code. If you have any questions, please contact SEC Secretary Jill Koehn at (916) 875-8584.

Sincerely,



Richard Hunn, Chair  
Sacramento Environmental Commission

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## **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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City of Galt  
City of Isleton*

June 23, 2016

Dana Mahaffey  
City of Sacramento  
Development Services Department, Planning Division  
300 Richards Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Subject: SEC Recommendation for the Proposed Florin Perkins Public Disposal Site MRF/LVTS

Dear Ms. Mahaffey:

The Sacramento Environmental Commission ("SEC") is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove and Sacramento on environmental issues facing our communities. The SEC was requested by the project applicant, Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. (Zanker), to review the proposed project proposal and offer recommendations for its approval.

The SEC received a presentation from Zanker at our June 20, 2016 meeting addressing the proposal and findings of the May 2016 City of Sacramento Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). In addition to this presentation, members of the SEC reviewed the IS/MND and considered comments submitted to your office by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) dated June 9, 2016.

The SEC Commissioners recognize the benefit that the expanded recycling operation brings to the region because processing capacity for construction and demolition material is limited. This project would contribute to meeting the State of California's future 75% solid waste recycling requirement; with the additional processing capacity proposed at this facility being important to

meeting the state mandate. We agree with the IS/MND conclusion that implementation of the proposed project would provide an overall environmental benefit (IS/MND Page 26).

We have noted an item that we request you consider during your review of this proposal. The IS/MND concluded that the noise emission from the operation of the proposed facility would exceed the City's nighttime noise standard as measured at adjacent properties (IS/MND Page 81-82). Restricted operations, avoiding nighttime operations, would avoid this exceedance. We recommend that the permit for this project include a condition that restricts nighttime operations until the time that additional mitigation measures are implemented and proved to reduce noise exposure to acceptable levels.

We also recommend that because the existing Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) allows the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to consider incremental tonnage increases in the revised SWFP, the City permitted capacity should correspond to the incremental permitted maximums defined by EMD. This coordination would avoid future potential confusion or conflicting permit conditions over this facility.

Because the proposed project can be implemented without significant impacts to the environment, the SEC recommends including these two conditions in a permit issued by the City. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this recommendation for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Koehn, SEC Secretary at (916) 875-8584 or [koehnjill@saccounty.net](mailto:koehnjill@saccounty.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Hunn".

Richard Hunn, Chair  
Sacramento Environmental Commission

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## **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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*Robert Bailey  
Mark Barry  
Dana M. Curran, Vice Chair  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn, Chair  
Diane Kindermann  
George "Buzz" Link  
Marjorie M. Namba  
Eric Rivero-Montes  
Mark White*

*A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:  
County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City Folsom  
City of Elk Grove  
City of Galt  
City of Isleton*

August 18, 2016

Jose Ramirez, Project Manager  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
10060 Goethe Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Subject: Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) Comments on the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) SCH#: 2015022067

Dear Mr. Ramirez,

The purpose of this correspondence is for the Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) to provide comments on the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) SCH#: 2015022067. The SEC is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered in part, to recommend to County Departments upon request, measures which will promote environmental health. The Draft EIR presented for comment is one such request. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program Draft EIR.

### **Background**

The SEC supports your efforts to reduce treated wastewater discharges to surface waterways and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to increase wastewater recycling for beneficial use by local agricultural users and environmental resources. We recognize that this program could establish a precedent for future similar projects that may be proposed by SRCSD or other entities.

The SEC reviewed and discussed the contents of the Draft EIR at our August 15, 2016 public meeting and developed the following comments for your consideration.

We understand that components of the proposed project are yet to be defined and can only be addressed at a program level at this time. However, the components that are being addressed at a project-level of detail need to have a complete impact analysis and mitigation identified where appropriate.

### **Biological Resources**

We noted that the presence of biological resources found at the proposed new pump station and along the 250 foot-wide recycled water transmission pipeline area of potential effect (APE), has not been determined. There is no information explaining the location or area of habitat and associated species that are present in the APE. Therefore, while an impact to biological resources is identified as potentially significant, there is no discussion of the severity or magnitude of the potential impact to sensitive biological resources that may occur with project implementation.

Because the Draft EIR does not characterize the potential impacts to these biological resources, Mitigation Measures BIO-1a and BIO-1b are not sufficiently defined to determine if they are adequate to mitigate impacts to affected habitat and species. The Draft EIR has deferred the definition of these mitigation measures to a future date. Specifically, on page 3.5-31, the Draft EIR limits the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1a to feasible efforts, while Mitigation Measure BIO-1b relies on unknown actions that may be required as part of future regulatory permit.

It is not known whether these measures will fully mitigate potential impacts, and therefore, cannot be relied upon as mitigation to conclude that a less-than-significant impact can be attained. At a minimum, it is recommended that mitigation performance standards be defined to determine the measures' effectiveness to mitigate impacts.

### **Hydrology and Water Quality**

Our second comment is on the discussion of Hydrology and Water Quality impacts starting on page 3.10-24 of the Draft EIR. We noted that interference or changes to Central Valley Project (CVP and State Water Project (SWP) operations is identified as an impact threshold. Because of this impact threshold, Mitigation Measure HYD-4 is identified to avoid potential conflict and a significant effects.

The SEC concludes that this threshold is not appropriate because: 1) ongoing operations of the CVP and SWP are not environmental topics as defined by § 21060.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and 2) the SRCSD is not obligated to continue treated wastewater discharges even if it were to jeopardize ongoing CVP and SWP operations.

If an cumulative environmental impact occurs as a result of continued CVP and SWP operations combined with the proposed reduced treated wastewater discharges, including impacts to water quality, aquatic species habitat, or conflicts with an applicable water quality control plan, it



would be incumbent on the CVP and SWP to modify their operations accordingly, consistent with State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1485 and other requirements.

Therefore, Mitigation Measure HYD-4 may not be appropriate as a mandatory measure required to mitigate the identified conflict. In addition, this measure may set a precedence for future recycled water projects that reduce treated wastewater discharge to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system.

However, if the SRCSD objective or policy is to avoid potential conflict with ongoing CVP and SWP operations, the SEC advises that the limits identified by Mitigation Measure HYD-4 could be achieved as a voluntary commitment and incorporated into the project description. Such a voluntary commitment would avoid establishing a precedent that may be imposed on future similar recycled water projects.

The SEC appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments on the SRCSD South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program Draft EIR. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact SEC Secretary Jill Koehn at (916) 875-8584.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Hunn".

Richard Hunn, Chair  
Sacramento Environmental Commission

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## ***SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION***

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*Robert Bailey  
Mark Barry  
Dana M. Curran, Vice Chair  
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Richard Hunn, Chair  
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Mark White*

*A JOINT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY:  
County of Sacramento  
City of Sacramento  
City of Folsom  
City of Elk Grove  
City of Galt  
City of Isleton*

August 16, 2016

Roberta MacGlashan, Chair  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 1450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for the Proposed Ordinance to Include Mobile Food Facility Placard Program

Dear Chair MacGlashan,

The Sacramento Environmental Commission ("SEC") is a joint County/City appointed commission chartered to advise the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Elk Grove and Sacramento on environmental issues facing our communities and programs being implemented by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD).

The SEC received a presentation from Kelly McCoy, EMD Interim Chief of Environmental Health, at our August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and addressed the proposed inclusion of the existing placarding program for mobile food facilities. Based on this presentation and subsequent discussion with the SEC, we concluded that the proposed placarding program would contribute to improving food safety and enhance public information.

Implementation of this program would not result in greater regulatory burden or costs to mobile food operators. In addition, it would create a uniform public information tool consistent with the ongoing placard program for stationary restaurants and food purveyors in Sacramento County.

The SEC recommends adoption of the proposed ordinance and implementation of this program.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendation, please contact SEC Secretary Jill Koehn at (916) 875-8584.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Hunn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Richard Hunn, Chair  
Sacramento Environmental Commission

## Appendix B

## ***Mission/Vision Statement***

### ***SEC VISION***

The Sacramento Environmental Commission (SEC) envisions a county and cities where local government and citizen actions result in improved environmental conditions and enhance sustainability such that:

- water pollution is minimized;
- air pollutant emissions are minimized;
- land is productive and managed for multiple uses;
- natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner;
- renewable energy is readily available;
- people, plants, and animals thrive in a healthy and sustainable ecosystem;
- neighborhoods are clean and healthy;
- food is safe; and
- residents can walk, bicycle, carpool, or ride public transit as their first choice of transportation.

**Sustainability** is acting in a way that provides for the needs of people and the environment, while at the same time, maintaining the natural systems that will support life into the future, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### ***SEC MISSION***

The SEC mission is to provide leadership, assistance, analysis, and advice on environmental matters to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, and Sacramento. In this role, the SEC works with city and county agencies and strives to advance its vision of environmental quality, conservation, public health, environmental management, environmental justice, and sustainability. The SEC serves as an advisory body for the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD).

### ***SEC HISTORY***

The SEC was established in 1988 by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Folsom, Galt, Isleton, and Sacramento. The City of Elk Grove joined the SEC in 2014. The ordinance establishing the SEC defines a broad charter that covers a range of environmental topics. The SEC undertakes activities ranging from commenting on specific projects to reviewing larger more comprehensive environmental policies and proposals.

The SEC has presented awards that acknowledge contributions toward environmental quality and health. The SEC established its annual Environmental Recognition Awards in 1999 to recognize the accomplishments and leadership of individuals, organizations and industries that have promoted a healthy and quality environment within the Sacramento Region.

### ***SEC MEMBERSHIP***

SEC members come from within the member jurisdictions and have diverse backgrounds, frequently representing the areas of environmental law, community advocacy, environmental regulation, industry, environmental justice, transportation, energy, water, solid waste, environmental health, and land use planning.

## Appendix C

## ***SEC TOPICS OF INTEREST***

The environmental sectors presented below are general topics of interest to the SEC. The SEC comments on these topics if/when they impact the vision and mission of the SEC.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>GOALS</b>
Solid waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts by City and County agencies to increase recycling beyond the state diversion mandate.</li> <li>• Increase collaboration with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).</li> <li>• Monitor local landfill issues.</li> <li>• Support long range planning to meet regional diversion and disposal needs.</li> <li>• Support land use planning that establishes a sufficient buffer around the Kiefer Road Landfill.</li> <li>• Support commercial, construction, demolition material, and food waste recycling programs; Support the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through enhanced waste management programs.</li> <li>• Promote the establishment of local ordinances to restrict use of single-use plastic bags and encourage the recycling of food waste.</li> </ul>
Energy	Increase SEC interaction with SMUD, PG&E, and the California Energy Commission in support of efforts to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy where appropriate.
Air Quality/ GHG Emission	Support efforts to improve air quality within the Sacramento region including efforts by local agencies to reduce GHG emissions.
Community Planning	<p>Support efforts by SEC member cities and the County planning departments to incorporate open space and conservation areas, where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the retention of open space in new developments.</li> <li>• Support planning for conservation areas.</li> <li>• Establish relationships with the planning commissions.</li> <li>• Support Superfund and Brownfield redevelopment efforts.</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<p>Support efforts by regional agencies to improve water quality in the Sacramento region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase contact and involvement with regional agencies involved with larger contaminated sites in the region.</li> <li>• Support permitted well construction/destruction.</li> </ul>
Water Supply	<p>Support efforts by regional agencies to develop sustainable and reliable surface and groundwater supplies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support water conservation programs.</li> <li>• Support long range planning for water supply needs.</li> <li>• Monitor agency actions related to water resources protection.</li> <li>• Work with EMD to support small water system supply.</li> </ul>

Flood Control	<p>Support efforts by local agencies to design and implement effective flood control for the Sacramento region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts to increase flood protection provided by American and Sacramento River levees.</li> <li>• Support efforts to increase flood protection provided by Folsom Dam.</li> <li>• Support efforts to minimize flooding from Sacramento County streams.</li> </ul>
Environmental Health	<p>Support efforts by EMD to protect public health and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Green/Yellow/Red Placard Program.</li> <li>• Support EMD’s efforts to develop measurable program goals.</li> <li>• Support EMD’s public pool, food safety, stormwater, body art, underground tank storage, cross connection and wells programs.</li> <li>• Support hazardous materials programs.</li> <li>• Support public health programs and initiatives.</li> </ul>
Pollution Prevention	<p>Work with local agencies to support pollution prevention within their operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce pesticide runoff.</li> <li>• Support hazardous materials collection operations.</li> <li>• Reduce light pollution at night “Dark skies”.</li> </ul>
Transportation	<p>Support efforts within the Sacramento region to provide a variety of mobility/transportation options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regional transit long range planning.</li> <li>• Support efforts to incorporate transportation planning into future land use planning.</li> <li>• Promote development and use of alternative modes of transportation such as walking, bicycling and riding public transit.</li> <li>• Promote development of electric vehicle infrastructure capable of meeting future demand.</li> </ul>
Environmental Justice	<p>Support efforts by City and County agencies to design and implement environmental programs that are fair and equitable to all Sacramento area residents.</p>
Agriculture/Land Use	<p>Support efforts by local agencies to implement land use policies sensitive to environmental concerns for the Sacramento region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development of facilities for accessible parks.</li> <li>• Support conservation of open spaces.</li> <li>• Preserve prime farm land and support urban farming.</li> <li>• Preserve critical habitat resources.</li> <li>• Protect and restore urban and rural creek systems.</li> </ul>



## Appendix D

# SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

2016

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 25	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
February 22	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
March 21	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
April 18th	6:30 p.m.	Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street
May 16	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
June 20	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
July 18	6:30 p.m.	Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street
August 15	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
September 19	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
October 18 ***Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street
November 21	6:00 p.m.	EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather
December	No Meeting	Happy Holidays

\*\*\* Tuesday evening meeting

Highlighted meetings are televised