
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Mark Barry
Richard Hunn, Chair
Diane Kindermann
Thomas Malson
Laura Nickerson
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair
Josh Rosa
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, September 16, 2019
EMD, 10590 Armstrong Ave, Mather, CA 95655
6:00 p.m.

ITEM

- 1 Call to Order – Commissioner Hunn
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero Montes, Laura Nickerson, Mark White, Mark Barry, Josh Rosa, Diane Kindermann and Tom Malson

- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment – Commissioner Hunn
- 5 Approve August 2019 Minutes
- 6 Sustainability Innovations at California State University, Sacramento- Josh Maddox, Sustainability Coordinator, California State University, Sacramento

Josh Maddox presented on the Sustainability Program at California State University, Sacramento (Cal State) which falls within Sac State’s Facilities Department. The primary mission of the program is to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. This is achieved through four focus areas: water use, energy, waste diversion/reduction and reduction overall of GHGs and through constant outreach and education to faculty and students.

Sac State has a robust Climate Action Plan which addresses 5 areas.

- Carbon Neutrality Goals- reducing total GHG emission by 50% by 2030, reducing total GHG emissions by 80% by 2035, and reducing total GHG emission to net zero by 2040.
- Energy- New construction, existing building and infrastructure improvements,

- renewable energy, human behavioral changes
- Waste- Waste reduction and diversion strategies, dining, procurement
- Water- New construction, existing buildings and infrastructure improvement
- Transportation- Bicycle circulation, parking, commuting reduction

One measure to reduce GHGs that touches the roughly 25,000 students enrolled at Sac State is to provide an unlimited public transportation card for students to utilize during the school year. Cal State is also located in the jump bike zone so students have another alternative for environmentally conscious transportation.

Areas in the energy category that Sac State targeted over the last few years that had significant and immediate results were: Lighting retrofits, white washed walls that better reflect light, day lighting timers and motion sensors in existing buildings such as Mendocino Hall, all of which has reduced energy usage by 30%. The campus has a chilled water tower and uses electricity sourced from renewable energy when possible. Sac State participates in Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) Auto Demand Response Program which means they will shut down buildings when the electrical grid is overloaded. This works well in the summer months when students can be funneled to fewer buildings for classes and the general public needs the electricity to run air conditioning. SMUD reimburses Sac State for participating in the Auto Demand Response Program which Sac State can then reinvest into sustainability programs. Rented solar panels located on the Well and on the library supply 20-40 % of Sac State's energy. The new parking structure will also be solar panel covered.

Water conservation has been augmented by a grant from DWR which paid for all faucets to be replaced with motion sensor faucets, new ice machines and low water usage washers. There has been a 15-20% water savings to date. Development sites are purposefully low impact and include bio swales and native vegetation. The soil in the bio swales filters storm water naturally and recharges groundwater. A follow up study on water quality indicates that there has been a reduction in micro plastics present in the water that has been filtered through the bioswales.

Waste diversion is a large part of the sustainability focus both with recycling and composting. The biggest barrier to successful recycling is teaching people what to put in each can so that items are sorted properly and not contaminated with food waste. The campus is pushing to use aluminum water bottles instead of plastic and reducing single use plastic in the eateries on campus. The facilities department/sustainability program operates a bioconversion and agricultural collaborative (BAC Yard) which composts organic waste from campus eateries and landscaping, and donates excess compost to underserved community gardens. BAC Yard also includes a school garden which produces fresh vegetables for distribution to students. These activities support Sac State's desire to be an anchor institution in the community, not just a business.

The University offers several opportunities for community engagement and education. There are sustainability tours for BAC Yard, the student garden, honey harvesting and the 15,000 gallon hydroponic project which models fish and agricultural production, all of which are student led. There is a faculty steering committee which also looks at curriculum enrichment.

Sac State is a leader in weaving sustainability into their built environment. They have grid tied solar production, LEED certified buildings, and are participants in the Living Building Challenge. The newest parking lot on campus is Parksmart certified and has won awards for its sustainable practices. The use of precast building elements reduced traffic impacts during construction and the installation of parking count systems reduces idling vehicles and assists with finding spaces quickly. Bioswales are designed throughout the landscaping areas to reduce storm water runoff. Tire filling stations and EV charging stations are installed in the structure. The interior is painted white to increase light and visibility and lighting is motion sensor and LED.

- 7 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department
- 8 Commissioner Comments
 - o NorCal Clean Fleet Technology Conference Oct 15-17, 2019
<http://norcalcleanfleetexpo.com/>
- 9 Adjournment – Next Meeting: October 21, 2019, 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, 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.