
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Richard Hunn, Vice Chair
Thomas Malson
Laura Nickerson
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair
Josh Rosa
Mark White, Chair
Shelby Witherby

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, January 25, 2021, 6 pm
Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91809255602?pwd=dlhKUFJyU0Y3TEZudnJBbUFwRUtDZz09>

or

phone: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 918 0925 5602 Passcode: 812397

ITEM

- 1 Call to Order – Commissioner White
- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary
Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero- Montes, Josh Rosa, Mark White, and Shelby Witherby
- 3 Introduction of Commissioners
- 4 Public Comment
There was no public comment.
- 5 Bird Health/Behavior As Indicator of Environmental Health- Meghan Hurtel, Sacramento Audubon Society

Ms. Hurtel commented that climate change is the single biggest threat to the bird community and human community at present. When birds are thriving it's an indicator that people are thriving.

Each year billions of migratory birds follow flyways from wintering to breeding grounds and back again. Farms can play a critical part in resting stops for migratory birds, providing water and habitats. In the last 200 years approximately 90% of water habitats have been lost. Land Cover maps show drastic loss of aquatic, wetland, riparian, floodplain habitat and grassland land cover.

In the last 50 years there has been an overall decrease of 3 billion birds.

Two-thirds of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change and warming trends. The good news is that if action is taken now, humans can help improve the change for 76% of species at risk. Temperature isn't the only threat. Birds and humans face threats from fire, sea level rise, and heavy rain. Protecting habitats which provide bird habitats should be a priority. Replacing grass with native plants is a good start. Denser developments would decrease urban sprawl which drastically eats away bird habitats. Mitigation is rarely as good as the original habitat, particularly postage stamp mitigation of unconnected acreage.

The Audubon website has an interactive element that show the vulnerability status of specific birds, and whether their range has improved or worsened specific to seasons.

The Audubon society supports wind turbines as an energy source when they are properly sited. Radar sensing for large, night time flocks of birds is encouraged.

There is a bird safe building campaign that encourages lights to be turned off at night in tall buildings to reduce bird deaths by window crashes.

Bill Bianco, President of the Sacramento Audubon Society spoke about regional birds. The Central Valley has experienced warming and a reduction in riparian habitat. Birds more adapted to arid conditions have/will move in. The Burrowing Owl that makes its home in underground burrows made by gophers and ground squirrel is losing habitat due to urban sprawl and agricultural expansion. The Yellow Billed Magpie is endemic to California and lives in Oak savannahs. They eat 70% insects and 30% plants. Their population is still recovering from West Nile virus. The Swainson's Hawk is native to western North America. It thrives in agricultural areas of alfalfa and low grasses. Insecticides have negatively affected their population.

6 Zero Emission Vehicle Programs- Aria Berliner, PhD, Air Pollution Specialist, California Air Resources Board

Ms. Berliner began the presentation by explaining that light duty vehicles encompass 28% of California's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Executive Order N-79-20 requires that 100% of auto sales transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEV) by 2035 and for buses and heavy duty long haul trucks, by 2045. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) zero emission vehicle programs aim to accelerate equitable and affordable deployment of zero emission fueling and recharging infrastructure to assist with this meeting this target.

CARB zero-emission vehicle programs focus on regulations, incentives and supporting programs. There are several rebate projects and equity programs to make zevs accessible in underserved communities. Incentive priorities:

- support the State's climate change air quality, ZEV deployment and petroleum reduction goals,
- accelerate the transition of fleets to zero emission
- increase access to clean transportation options for priority populations
- support economic growth and job training

The Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP) has provided rebates for over 400,000 clean vehicles

to date, awarded \$25 million to three projects at schools across the state, and completed six heavy duty demos and projects in 2020.

Clean vehicle assistance programs can be stacked upon each other such as a grant up to 5,000 for purchase of an eligible clean vehicle, assistance with low interest auto loans, and payment for eligible vehicles older than 2004 to be scrapped. Light duty vehicle program highlights in the Sacramento area include:

- 67 vehicle grants of nearly 767,000 for eligible vehicles
- 8,931 rebates issued for battery electric and plug in hybrid vehicles since 2010. 471 of the rebates, approximately \$2 million, was issued for low and moderate income individuals
- Clean Cars 4 All program issue 22 grants worth \$201,000 for BEVs and PHEVs in 2020.

Heavy Duty Programs in Sacramento include the regional zero emission school bus deployment project at Twin Rivers USD and Elk Grove USD. These 2 school districts now use 20 zero emission type C eLion buses. They will be expanding their fleet by 20 more new vehicles and have placed an order for 10 more. Twin rivers will be the largest zero emissions bus fleet in the country.

Electrification is not enough in the effort to reduce GHG. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) must also be reduced.

Our Community CarShare Sacramento Pilot Project began in May 2017. 7 community housing sites and 2 EVs onsite and reserve use of the EV as needed. Over 575,627 electric miles have been driven with an average trip length of 15 miles.

7 Approve November 2020 Minutes

A motion to approve the November 16th, 2020 minutes was made by Tom Malson, seconded by Richard Hunn.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero- Montes, Josh Rosa, Mark White, and Shelby Witherby

Noes: 0

Abstentions:0

November 2020 Minutes approved.

8 Support Letter For EMD Proposed Fee Schedule Submitted For Board of Supervisors' Approval For Implementation On July 1, 2021. Implementation Was Delayed From 2020 By One Year Due To COVID19.

The SEC requested a brief presentation on EMD's proposed five year fee schedule at the February 22 , 2021 meeting as there are several new commissioners who had not heard the presentation in 2020.

9 SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Commissioner volunteered to monitor specific regional agencies and report back monthly on relevant issues and/or legislation.

- 10 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department
- 11 Commissioner Comments
Report Back on Annual Meeting With Board of Supervisors' Chiefs of Staff
- 12 Adjournment 7:37 pm – Next Meeting- February 22, 2021 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

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.