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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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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, March 15, 2021, 6 pm** **Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95597819519?pwd=bVB1OEftMUVZOE9XcmpscWlyODVhUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 9781 9519

Passcode: 683867

One tap mobile

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### **ITEM**

- 1 Call to Order – Commissioner White

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm

- 2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present were Richard Hunn, Tom Malson, Laura Nickerson, Eric Rivero-Montes, Josh Rosa, Mark White, Shelby Witherby

- 3 Introduction of Commissioners

- 4 Public Comment

Chair White asked for public comment that did not pertain to the CAP presentation. He explained that there would be time for public comment on the CAP after the presentation and after the commissioners had a chance to ask questions of the presenters.

- 5 Countywide Climate Action Plan-  
Todd Smith, Principal Planner, Office of Planning and Environmental Review, Sacramento  
County  
Ascent Environmental Consultants

Todd Smith, Principal Planner, Sacramento County, and the consultant team from Ascent Environmental, presented the draft Sacramento County Climate Action Plan (CAP). This plan was drafted in collaboration with County Planning, ER Review staff, other County departments, Ascent Environmental, external stakeholder groups, SMUD, SMAQMD, and community interest groups such as contractors and manufacturers and, community members. The CAP supports the State's goal of reducing GHGs through local action in the community and within government operations, includes strategies for adapting to climate change, includes implementation and monitoring to ensure targets for reduction are being achieved. The CAP creates consistent GHG reduction measures for future development projects and addresses government fleets and buildings.

The CAP combines technical reports and planning documents developed over the last several year, introduces strategies that will support the County's Climate Emergency Resolution and identifies areas of collaboration with external agencies.

Ascent presented a pie chart of Community GHG Emission Inventory Results. The two primary sources overall were residential/commercial energy use and vehicles. Looking forward, under a business as usual scenario, the County is on track by 2030 to have GHG emission rates lower than current levels of state recommendations. Drivers for these reductions are progress at the State level reducing GHG emissions from transportation, waste and energy sectors and, anticipated availability of carbon free electricity by 2030.

Section 2 of the CAP includes community GHG reduction measures intended to offer additional reductions beyond business as usual. The CAP also includes flexibility for a carbon offset program allowing for investment in unique opportunities for GHG reduction outside of county jurisdictions such as reforestation projects.

In December 2020, the County adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution calling for carbon neutrality by 2030. This is achieved through GHG reduction, carbon sequestration and carbon farming. The resolution directs the CAP to explain how it will support the County in this goal.

Section 3 of the CAP, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, is intended to help the County prepare for :

- Increases in temperature
- Extreme heat days and heat waves
- Increased risk of wildfire/increased drought
- Increased flooding
- Sea-level rise in communities within the Delta

Other features of the CAP highlight general plan policies that overlap with measures contained in the CAP, estimates of costs for CAP measures and incentives that may be available for selected measures and a description of public and stakeholder engagement that has occurred during the development of the draft plan.

Specific actions are outlined in implementing and monitoring the CAP's performance. These

include: creating a CAP portal with updated implementation information for the public, updating GHG inventory information every 3 years to track progress, coordination between county departments and local agencies, and tracking at the state level to ensure that the latest carbon reduction practices are integrated into updates of the CAP. The plan designates a Sustainability Manager to help County departments coordinate these actions.

Public draft of the CAP is available on the County's website and the public comment period ends on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The final CAP incorporating public comments is anticipated to be available in May along with additional public comment period consistent with CEQA and the County's hearing process. The target for adoption of the CAP is summer 2021.

Issues addressed during the commissioner Q & A include the following:

- Road vehicle GHGs did not decrease significantly in the business as usual model because movement toward EV's use accounts for only a small number of cars and is outpaced by the increased number of fuel cars on the road.
- The CAP only speaks to unincorporated parts of Sacramento County as the surrounding cities have authority over their land use.
- More explanation is recommended regarding the relationship between the CAP and the Climate Emergency Declaration, ARB plan and SMUD goals. The numbers in the AG section on emissions needs clarification. The forecast of carbon farming needs a clearer explanation since it accounts for a 48 % reduction of GHGs. Additional numerical support is needed in how the 28% participation rate in electrifying existing buildings was determined.
- Many measures in the CAP used to achieve GHG reduction assumptions are not enforceable and need more implementation detail.
- Specific measures in underserved communities are not detailed other than education for residents. Todd Smith replied that this measure would include increased urban forests in these communities. Jason Lundgren replied in zoom chat that County planning staff is currently working with the County Office of Emergency Services to create a new Drought and Climate Annex to the County Emergency Operations Plan. And, the issue of equity is top priority in the next 8 year cycle of the County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Many issues of equity touch these plans (isolation, cultural competency in messaging, lack of trust, systemic barriers/inequities and income disparities. The County is continuously learning how best to cross reference all these efforts and should highlight some of these parallel plans in the CAP.
- What formula was used in the projections for vehicle emissions? Sacramento Area Council of Governments forecasts and assumptions were used in the areas of growth in employment and housing, demographics, projected land use and federal emission factors.
- The numbers for reduction in GHGs when buildings are electrified does assume that electricity is becoming decarbonized at the source and thereby reduces GHG emissions in newly electrified buildings.

Public comments made during the public comment portion of the presentation can be viewed at <https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx>

6 Approve February 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve February minutes was made by Tom Malson, seconded by Eric Rivero-Montes.

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

7 Report Back on SEC Commissioner Monitoring of Environmental Issues and Agencies

Tom Malson commented on Folsom zoning code updates, Isleton general plan housing updates, 6<sup>th</sup> street walking/biking trail with no negative ER findings and a Galt housing element with a split vote.

Richard Hunn commented on the building electrification ordinance that is moving forward to the City Council.

Shelby Witherby mentioned pavement projects as part of water agency infrastructure projects.

Eric Rivero Montes reported on a development near the casino in Elk Grove and walkability as a component of projects.

Mark White reported that landfill tons and traffic are increasing statewide. The transfer station fees are at \$10.00/ton. Recycling is down 40% and international markets buying US recyclable waste continues to decline.

8 Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director's Report- Marie Woodin, Director Environmental Management Department

9 Commissioner Comments

10 Adjournment 8:02 p.m.– Next Meeting- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://emd.saccounty.net). Agendas are also forwarded to interested parties upon request.*