
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Marjorie Namba, Chair
Diana Parker, Vice Chair
Mark White
Andrea Leisy
Robert Bailey
Dana Curran
George "Buzz" Link
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

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

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013, 6:00P.M.
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
10590 ARMSTRONG AVENUE, MATHER, CA 95655

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Namba

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Kloock

Commission Members Present: Marjorie Namba, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Link, Anthony DeRiggi.

Commission Members Absent: Diana Parker, Mark White, and Andrea Leisy.

Staff Members Present: Val Siebal and Vicki Kloock.

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Namba

The Commissioners each took a turn to introduce themselves.

4. Public Comments – Chair Namba

No public comments made.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of August 2013 Meeting Minutes

The August minutes were presented:

A motion was made by Robert Bailey and seconded by George Link to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2013, meeting.

Ayes: Marjorie Namba, Robert Bailey, Dana Curran, George Link, and Anthony DeRiggi.

Noes: None

6. Invasive Plant and Animal Species in the Sacramento Region – Anna Ewing, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife Invasive Species Program

Chair Namba introduced Ms. Anna Ewing, a Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Invasive Species Program who made a PowerPoint presentation on invasive species in Sacramento County. Ms. Ewing advised that there are three impacts of invasive species: 1) environmental, 2) economic, and 3) human health and safety. She explained that there is no consistent official definition of an invasive species, but it is generally regarded to be anything that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The characteristics of an invasive species are 1) rapid reproduction, 2) fast growth, 3) high ability to spread, 4) the ability to adapt to various habitat types and environmental conditions, and 5) a generalized diet. The vectors that can bring an invasive species into an area include human activities, such as transoceanic shipping and construction projects; as well as natural dispersal, such as the wind and water currents. The environmental impacts of an invasive species can include competition for food and space which causes a decline in primary productivity and changes in nutrient cycling and a disruption of the food web. It can displace native plants and modify habitat structure, as well degrade water quality because of the excretion of waste and the rotting of plants. It can even alter fire regimes because of the introduction of non-native grasses. These invasive species can cause economic impacts by obstructing the navigation of commercial vessels, impairing recreational activities, clogging pipes, meters and other water delivery infrastructure. They can also interfere with agricultural operations, including crops and livestock, such as when star thistle takes over a field and the cattle grazing there will not eat it. Some of the impacts that invasive species can have on human health include creating water hazards, impeding water delivery, undermining flood control facilities, transferring diseases to humans and causing mild to severe illness due to toxic compounds. Some of the biggest invasive species in Sacramento County include aquatic weeds such as water hyacinth, Brazilian waterweed, South American spongeplant, Eurasian watermilfoil, water primrose, and curly-leaf pondweed. These all impact navigation, recreational activities, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and water delivery. Among the many invasive terrestrial weeds affecting Sacramento County are yellow starthistle, perennial pepperweed, stinkwort, annual Mediterranean grasses, red sesbania, and giant reed. Both seeds and fragments are spread by people, equipment, and wildlife. A fairly new invasive species in Sacramento County is the Northern and Southern watersnakes. There are confirmed populations in Roseville and Folsom. They are native to the eastern U.S. west of the continental divide and were likely introduced to our region when released by pet owners. They are not poisonous, but will strike at you and spray musk. One of the invasive species that has caused the most problems in this area is the New Zealand mudsnail. They have established populations in the American and Sacramento Rivers. They were most likely introduced to California accidentally by anglers returning from New Zealand. While only about ¼" long, they reproduce rapidly, are tolerant of a wide variety of environmental conditions, and compete with native species for food and space. They have a strong foothold here. Another aquatic invasive species causing a great deal of problems is the Asian clam which has established itself in freshwater areas of the Delta and tributary watersheds. They were introduced to the U.S. from Russia and Asia but have rapidly grown to cause great destruction among native species. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife's involvement in attempting to curb these invasive species includes a great deal of education and outreach, writing new laws and regulations, administering the California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, and practicing the CDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Protocol. The largest percentage of their time is focused on the Quagga & Zebra Mussel Project, writing HACCP plans for CDFW hatcheries, and coordinating with other agencies and organizations.

7. An Update on the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) – Richard Radmacher, Senior Planner, County of Sacramento Community Development and Planning Department

Chair Namba introduced Mr. Richard Radmacher, a Senior Planner in the County of Sacramento's Community Development Department, who works on the SSHCP. Mr. Radmacher explained that the SSHCP can generally be divided into 2 areas: 1) the urban development area and 2) the conservation area. The entire plan area covers approximately 374,000 acres. The urban development area consists of about 7,500 acres. The economic analysis has not yet been released. They are presently working on the Environmental Impact Statement and hope to release it in early October. The Scoping meetings are set to start on October 24th. Their conservation strategy includes a hybrid approach to mitigation (hardline/criteria) and this criteria guides conservation within the Reserve Planning Units (RPU's). They have already negotiated the preserves and will be incorporating the existing preserves. These core preserves will be linked by corridors. Up to 50,000 acres will be protected by the SSHCP. They are asking for a 2.75:1 preservation ratio for the vernal pool areas. The SSHCP Aquatic Resource Plan makes sure they will meet the Clean Water Act requirements. One of the last big issues they need to deal with is the "Set-Back Buffer Provision" which may require a cap on impacts or some other measures. They expect to complete the Economic Analysis next month and then complete administrative draft documents by November 2013. They hope to publish the public draft documents by March of 2014 and begin formal public review and outreach in April of 2014. The goal is to complete and adopt the final documents by March of 2015.

8. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal, Director, EMD
Chair Namba introduced Director Siebal who directed the Commissioners to EMD's enclosed newsletter.
9. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Parker
Chair Namba advised the Commission that, as Vice Chair Parker was not present, that Secretary Kloock would mail all relevant news items.
10. Commissioner Comments
Robert Bailey asked if the letter had gone out to the Capital Southeast Connector yet and Director Siebal advised that it was still under discussion as Andrea Leisy had received some further information from the planning department. Chair Namba asked Commissioner DeRiggi to draft a letter inquiring about the process to eradicate the Northern and Southern Watersnakes in Sacramento County.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10p.m.