
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

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

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014 6:30 P.M.
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
700 H STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

ITEM

1. Call to Order – Chair Link

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Margie Namba, Mark White, Dana Curran, George "Buzz" Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Mark Barry and Richard Hunn.

Commissioners absent: Robert Bailey.

The Secretary read the replay statement.

3. Introduction of Commissioners – Chair Link

The Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.

4. Public Comment – Chair Link

There was no public comment.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – Approval of June 2014 Minutes

A motion to approve the June 2014 minutes was made by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Dana Curran.

Ayes: Margie Namba, Dana Curran, George "Buzz" Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Secret Charles-Ford, Mark Barry, Richard Hunn

Noes: None

Abstain: Mark White

6. City of Sacramento Combined Sewer System- Brett Grant, Supervising Engineer, City of Sacramento, Utilities Department

Mr. Grant presented a relief map showing the boundaries of the City of Sacramento's Combined Sewer System (CSS), pointing out the location of the City's pump stations and sumps. Pump Station #1 includes sump 1, which was built in 1907 but still functions as a vital component of the CSS, while sump 2, at pump station 3, is the primary

station and sump. There are two wet weather treatment facilities, Pioneer Station located on the northern boundary and the combined wastewater treatment plant facility. The system also incorporates several underground storage areas.

Early in the 1990's, several high intensity storms hit the Sacramento area and overwhelmed the City's CSS. This resulted in a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Cease and Desist order being issued on June 22, 1990, requiring the city to cease outflows from the CSS to City streets without increasing the CSS overflows to the River. The City of Sacramento spent two years evaluating possible improvements to the current operation of the CSS. Several studies were undertaken by the City during that time, and a Public Health Risk Assessment of the CSS outflows in the street was determined to pose no significant health risk. The City believed the CSS operation was in compliance with the EPA's CSS Control Policy, and testing data taken from the receiving waters indicated that the CSS overflows do not result in significant adverse water quality impacts to the Sacramento River. Based on these studies the City put together a Combined Sewer System Improvement Plan (CSSIP), approved in 1996 by the RWQCB, which included increased pump capacity, increased wet weather flow treatment capacity, more underground storage and increased conveyance capacity.

Mr. Grant notes that overflows to the river have been reduced and that 97% of rainfall runoff receives secondary treatment, 2.5 % receives primary treatment only and .5% enters the river untreated.

A CSSIP update was completed in 2014. This update focuses on localized flood reduction projects, grey infrastructure which is essentially underground storage systems and green infrastructure which will be achieved through development policies, and water conservation. The CSSIP proposes pilot projects to evaluate cost effective methods to reduce rainfall dependent infiltration and inflows, and advocates that the City have an adaptive management process as methods are assessed. Climate change is one factor considered when the long range flood protection plan is being reviewed and revised.

The City utilizes modern technology such as the InfoWorks CS 2D Hydraulic model of CSS to evaluate performance of CSS improvements. Historically, CSS systems are typically undersized and the City's system is currently at capacity. The pipes in the City of Sacramento's CSS system also are approx. 80-100 years old with an optimal replacement interval occurring at 100 years. There is a lifecycle replacement plan in place. The Oak Park Regional Storage system was completed this summer. This will provide storage for 3.8 million gallons of water at a cost of \$11 million dollars. McKinley Park continues to be a flood challenge during heavy rainfall.

Commissioner DeRiggi asked about the relationship of standing water in sewers to the number of cases of West Nile Virus that may be associated with those areas of standing water. Mr. Grant was not familiar with what steps were taken to prevent mosquito breeding.

Commissioner Link asked Mr. Grant to provide a contact name at the City of Sacramento in order for the SEC to send a letter of support regarding the City of Sacramento's efforts to procure grants and federal funding for their CSS improvements.

7. Flood Control Update- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency- Rick Johnson, Executive Director

Executive Director Rick Johnson reviewed past flooding scenarios in the Sacramento region and reminded the public that the city of Sacramento is situated between levees. He highlighted 5 major projects being undertaken that will total 4 billion dollars when completed. There are approximately 105 miles of levees in the Sacramento region under SAFCA jurisdiction. Flood risks maps were presented showing that much of the risk was due to streams and tributaries, not only the American and Sacramento rivers.

There are new state and federal levee standards for urban areas which include removing encroachment, or homeowner landscaping (homeowners have incorporated the levee into their backyard landscaping), protecting access to the levee, and visibility of the landside toe of the levees.

Two issues that cause risks to levees are underseepage and vegetation. Studies done in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina indicated that underseepage is one of the primary factors in levee failure, causing a void space in the levee where material has shifted. A solution to the local underseepage issue is the construction of a slurry wall in the levee that slows the flow of ground water.

Natomas was included in the regional flood plain map in 2008. SAFCA began improvements to the levees around Natomas using local and state funding. Eighteen miles of levees were repaired at a cost of about 410 million dollars. The Corp of Engineers will be completing the improvements using federal funding. The work that has been completed so far has significantly reduced the physical flood risk to the basin. SAFCA's funding stream comes from 65 percent federal funding, with the other 35 percent coming from nonfederal interests. Currently the state pays 70 percent of that 35 percent and SAFCA pays the remaining. The state now only funds flood protection out of bond funding not general funds, which may present challenges for SAFCA.

It was not feasible to remove vegetation from the levees which serves as habitat for endangered species in order to meet the new urban levee standards so SAFCA built a second levee adjacent to the existing levee to fulfill that requirement of removing encroachment and adding visibility. Because Giant Garter snakes are on the endangered species list, mitigation regarding their protection was required as SAFCA dug into levees and put in slurry walls. SAFCA created habitats for the snakes as they worked on existing levees.

A state law mandates that urban areas must have a 200 year level of protection by 2025. The city is required to submit this flood protection by 2016 or be at risk of penalty for non-compliance.

The Folsom Dam project involves many phases including raising the height of the dam and surrounding dikes, repairing the Mormon Island dam, which was originally constructed on cobblestone and is not built to withstand earthquakes, and adding an additional spillway. The new spillway includes 6 tainter gates.

When the Dam was originally finished in 1956, American River inflows had not been estimated to be as large as recent studies have shown. The spillway tainter gates at Folsom Lake are set low in the reservoir so that water can be released long before the dam becomes full. Folsom Lake is unique in that it acts as the region's flood control mechanism as well as its water supply.

Sacramento is 2nd only to New Orleans as the most likely city in the nation to experience a major flood disaster. We have a 100 year flood protection which is very low in comparison to other major cities that typically have 200-500 year flood protection.

8. Awards Nomination Form Committee Update- Vice Chair Curran

Vice Chair Curran reported to the Commission that the final draft of the awards nomination form was being circulated and would be completed by Friday, July 25th, 2014.

9. Website Update- Dr. Anthony DeRiggi

Commissioner DeRiggi reported that the Webpage is being edited by County IT staff. Commissioners should send in photos or have them taken at the next meeting for the new page biography link on the website. Guidelines for links included on the SEC webpage will be reviewed at the next meeting.

10. Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) Director's Report – Val Siebal

11. Environmental News Review – Vice Chair Curran

12. Commissioner Comments:

Chair Link reported that the City of Elk Grove has passed an ordinance allowing representation on the SEC. The cities of Rancho Cordova and Citrus Heights are discussing doing the same. EMD will be submitting an agenda item for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to amend the current ordinance and add a seat from Elk Grove onto the commission.

Commissioner Namba reminded the public about the current threat of West Nile Virus.

Director Siebal suggested a letter of inquiry as to how the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District treats standing water in catch basins, a topic brought up by Commissioner DeRiggi. Commissioner Hunn volunteered to draft the letter.

13. Adjournment – Next Meeting, August 18th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Environmental Management Department, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655

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, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, 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.