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# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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Margie Namba  
Mark White  
Dana Curran, Vice Chair  
George "Buzz" Link, Chair  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Eric Rivero- Montes  
Mark Barry  
Richard Hunn  
Dianne Kindermann

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JULY 20TH, 2015, 6:30PM.  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS  
700 H STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814**

**1 Call to Order- Chair Link**

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

**2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary**

*Commissioners present: Dana Curran, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Mark White, George "Buzz Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Richard Hunn, Dianne Kindermann, Margie Namba*

*Replay statement was read by the secretary.*

**3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Link**

*Commissioners each took a turn introducing themselves.*

**4 Public Comment- Chair Link**

*No members of the public addressed the Commission.*

**5 Consent Items- Chair Link**

*1. A motion to approve the June 2015 minutes was made by Dr. Anthony DeRiggi and seconded by Richard Hunn.*

*Ayes: Mark White, George "Buzz" Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Eric Rivero-Montes, Dana Curran, Richard Hunn, Diane Kindermann*

Noes: None

Abstentions: Margie Namba

2. A motion to approve the addition of July Web Links to the SEC Webpage was made by Mark White and seconded by Anthony DeRiggi.

Ayes: Mark White, Dana Curran, George "Buzz" Link, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Eric Rivero-Montes, Diane Kindermann, Richard Hunn, Margie Namba

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

## 6 2015 SEC Awards Presentations

*Environmental Awards for projects ending in 2014 were presented to the following:*

- *California Product Stewardship Council for establishing 4 medical waste collection sites and employing a successful outreach program called "Don't Rush to Flush" which educates the public about the hazards of flushing unused medications down the toilet. Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council was present to accept the award.*
- *Mutual Housing California, which completed a green rehab of its 54 unit Greenway Apartments in South Sacramento including energy efficient appliances, light fixtures and windows, solar panels and LED lighting, drought tolerant landscaping, water efficient toilets, and storm drainage bio swales. Keith Bloom, Senior Project Manager was present to accept the award.*
- *City of Elk Grove, for the completion of a Special Waste Collection Site, built to LEED standards including sky lights, white concrete, a reuse room for consumers to drop off unused household hazardous cleaning materials that can be reused by other consumers, solar panels, and innovative battery sorting methods. Present to accept the award was:*
  - *Heather Neff, Integrated Waste Manager*
  - *Christian Punsal, Integrated Waste Coordinator*
  - *Carlos Duque (Pronounced: Do-Kay), SWCC Program Manager*
  - *Geoffrey Niswander, SWCC Chemist*
  - *Donna Regan, SWCC Environmental Health and Safety Specialist*
  - *Cedar Kehoe, Former Integrated Waste Manager*
- *The Nature Conservancy, for the Lower Consumnes River Preserve project which restored more than 500 acres of floodplain habitat including the restoration of native plants and the enhancement of wetland habitat for salmon and*

*migratory waterfowl. This project will serve as a model for floodplain conservation and management in California. It strategically breached private levees to connect the Consumnes River with its floodplains, providing flood management, groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat benefit. Judah Grossman, PhD, Project Director, and Jesse Roseman were present to accept the award on behalf of the Nature Conservancy.*

*The commissioners commented on the quality of the applicants and projects and hope to see that continue.*

## **7 Benefits of Regionally Appropriate Plantings- Taylor Lewis, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Gardens Manager**

*Mr. Lewis addressed the many beneficial reasons to use regionally appropriate plants when designing landscaping and replacing turf with more water conservative plants. The use of native California plants and Mediterranean plants provides a rich environment for wildlife habitats, soil health, beneficial insect populations, bee pollination, decomposition of organic materials, and CO<sub>2</sub> exchange.*

*Native California plants will normally thrive with low water, are acclimated to the environment, act as a year round food source for wildlife and aid in a healthy food chain. Plants that grow to different heights provide canopy layers for different species of organisms, insects and animals. The establishment period for Native California plants is faster and easier and requires less fertilizer and less water to maintain their health. They will reseed on their own if pruning is reduced or deferred. These plants also act as a resource for native pollinators.*

*Certain species of animals are dependent on one type of plant for reproduction because they will only lay their eggs on that species of plant. For example, Pipevine Swallow Tails only lay their eggs on plants from the Pipevine family because that is the only plant the larvae will eat. If this relationship is severed by the removal of this California native plant, the Pipeline Swallow Tail population will be affected.*

*Soil is a habitat containing an abundance of micro flora and fauna. Microbes in soil assist with the decomposition of organic matter. Native California plants have a good relationship with soil bacteria which results in decreased use of soil amendments.*

*Water savings is substantial when landscaping incorporates Native California plants. The need for irrigation after the plants are established is small compared to turf and can be accomplished using drip irrigation instead of large spray sprinkler heads. Targeted irrigation results in reduced runoff.*

*Permeable hardscape is also recommended when planning a drought tolerant landscape. Elk Grove's Rain Garden is an excellent example of drought tolerant landscaping that incorporates permeable pavers and hardscapes. Mr. Lewis expressed the view that he sees no benefit in replacing live turf with synthetic turf as it removes beneficial habit and, drought tolerant landscape alternatives are plentiful.*

*For guidance when installing drought tolerant landscaping, an excellent resource is the California Native Plant Society website or, to view and purchase live plantings at their annual sale, you can visit the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Gardens.*

**8 Sacramento County Environmental Management Director's Report-** Val Siebal, Director

**9 Environmental News Review-** Vice Chair Curran

**10 Commissioners Comments:**

*Chair Link reported back on a Jackson Corridor, JPA meeting that he attended in July. He said there was much concern expressed by land owners about where the connector would be laid out. He said the EIR was estimated to be out by October, 2015, which seemed optimistic.*

**11 Adjournment-** Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 17th, 6:00 p.m., at the Environmental Management Department, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655