
SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

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, MARCH 21, 2016, 6:00PM.
10590 ARMSTRONG AVE.
MATHER, CA 95655**

1 Call to Order- Chair Hunn

The meeting of the Sacramento Environmental Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2 Roll Call- Staff Secretary

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White, Diane Kindermann, Anthony DeRiggi

3 Introduction of Commissioners-Chair Hunn

4 Public Comment- Chair Hunn

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

5 Approval of February 2016 Minutes

1. A motion to approve the February 2016 minutes, was made by George "Buzz" Link and seconded by Margie Namba.

Ayes: : Richard Hunn, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White, Diane Kindermann, Anthony DeRiggi

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

6 **75% Initiative Update**- Howard Levenson, Deputy Director, Materials Management and Local Assistance Division, Cal Recycle

Policy Drivers of the 75% Initiative primarily include:

- AB 341 implements a 75% statewide recycling goal by 2020 which complements, not supersedes, the AB 939 mandate on jurisdictions to divert 50% of waste from landfills.
- Organic waste is a large part of waste heading to landfills so AB 32 and AB 1826 require 90% diversion of organic waste from landfills by 2025 and commercial organics recycling by businesses producing 8 cubic yards or more. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) no longer counts towards meeting the organic diversion percentage requirement.
- Reducing organics in landfills reduces methane emissions which aids in meeting air quality goals.

Other drivers include the protection of public health and safety. Cal Recycle achieves that through the recycling of beverage containers, electronics, waste tires and used oil. Extended producer responsibility is being required, specifically for carpet, mattress and paint producers. The beverage container recycling program (CRV) is a 1.4 billion dollar program with an 80% success rate. Returning bottles to retrieve the 5 cent deposit has proved so successful that CalRecycle is actually losing money as they pay out more for cans/bottles that are turned in than they make with the 5 cent deposit program.

Challenges to achieving the 75% recycling goal include lack of markets and manufacturing capacity. Paper constitutes a large part of the recycling stream but with a very limited market for waste paper in the U.S., it gets shipped to Asia. The same is true for glass waste. Green and organic waste is very heavy so shipping it overseas is not an option. Regional infrastructure will be needed to handle the organic waste and recycle it to meet the new organic waste diversion requirements. Jurisdictions will be responsible for the education, outreach and site visits of the mandated organics program, beginning 2016.

Barriers to infrastructure development needed to meet the legislated diversion goals include the low landfill tipping fees in the U.S. which do not bring in sufficient revenue to fund the building of new infrastructure, the limited demand for recycled feedstock and local opposition to siting new facilities.

Organic Waste diversion is challenging as the waste is putrescible and odorous so that composting piles accumulated on ag land can be an odor nuisance. Compost is also subject to metals and pathogens standards so organic waste may need to be processed and refined before passing as compost.

Funding incentives are available to encourage local projects/programming for composting, digesting and producing alternative fuels. CalRecycle has posted the funding possibilities on their webpage, including grants and loans from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Project possibilities include organics waste processing facilities, food bank infrastructure and food waste rescue and prevention programs.

7 **Cap to Cap- Environmental Issues** Peter Tateishi, President Metro Chamber Sacramento

Mr. Tateishi updated the Commissioners on the environmental issues being taken to Washington's Cap to Cap April 9th-14th, 2016, where local delegates lobby to make changes at the federal level of government. There are currently 335 local delegates, making up 11 groups/teams from the Sacramento region, who will be traveling to Washington in May to lobby our representatives. 214 appointments with legislators have already been scheduled to occur during this trip.

Larry Greene, Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, is one of the leaders of the Air Quality Team. The team will be advocating for fuel incentive programs to further air quality progress and promote regional vitality and community health. Healthy communities prove more resilient when encountering natural and economic disasters such as wildfires. Wildfires last year cost Lake Tahoe the Iron Man race due to poor air quality and local businesses report lost income when youth sports events are cancelled due to poor air quality.

A Regional Transit System team will be lobbying for transit infrastructure such as connector trains and street cars. There are 32 entities in Sacramento that are transit related but act autonomously. The Metro Chamber is making concerted effort to gather these stakeholders together to support common goals. The transit team will be lobbying for vegetation on flood levees, support of local habitat for fish and wildlife, and full funding for transportation infrastructure. Bridges are in need of repairs and maintenance and the region is underprepared for a catastrophe.

The Water Resources team will be meeting with Washington legislators to talk about critical water storage issues, reservoirs sites, and increased flow on the American River.

The Commissioners discussed drafting a letter at the Metro Chamber in support of the Cap to Cap issues being lobbied in Washington this year. Richard Hunn volunteered to draft the letter.

8 **AB 1716 Discussion, Lower American River Conservancy**

Action: Commissioners voted to send a letter of support for AB 1716 to Assemblyman McCarty's office and also a letter of concern requesting that the bill's language specify local control of the parkway. Motion to approve made by Mark White, seconded by George "Buzz" Link. Mark White and Diane Kindermann volunteered to draft the letters, respectively.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White, Diane Kindermann, Anthony DeRiggi

Noes: None

Abstain: None

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

10 **Agency Monitoring Report Back**

Commissioners reported back on issues they are monitoring from other local government entities.

11 **Commissioner Comments**

Awards designations were approved. Motion made by Mark White and seconded by Diane Kindermann.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, George "Buzz" Link, Eric Rivero-Montes, Robert Bailey, Margie Namba, Mark White, Diane Kindermann, Anthony DeRiggi

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Action: Secretary Koehn to follow up with the City Clerk at the City of Elk Grove to determine if the SEC's letter in support of the single use plastic bag ban had been received and filed. It was confirmed after the meeting that the letter had been received, distributed to council members, and filed.

12 **Adjournment-** 8:14 p.m. Next meeting April 18th, 2016 at 700H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814