

---

---

# **SACRAMENTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

---

---

Mark Barry  
Dr. Anthony DeRiggi  
Richard Hunn, Chair  
Diane Kindermann  
George “Buzz” Link  
Margie Namba  
Laura Nickerson  
Eric Rivero-Montes, Vice-Chair  
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

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**6:30 pm.**

### **ITEM**

**1 Call to Order – Commissioner Hunn**

The January meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2 Roll Call – Staff Secretary**

Commissioners present: Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero-Montes, George “Buzz” Link, Mark White, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry, Laura Nickerson, Margie Namba

**3 Introduction of Commissioners**

**4 Public Comment – Commissioner Hunn**

There was no public comment.

**5 Environmental Management Department Update on Mutual Aid to Butte County for Camp Fire- Jan Bradshaw, Environmental Specialist, Doug Osborn, Environmental Specialist**

Butte County requested mutual aid assistance after the Camp Fire destroyed approximately 12,000 homes and a death toll of at least 85 people. The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) has sent nine Environmental Specialists to-date to assist Butte County.

EMD staff initially worked at the FEMA assistance center, then staffed checkpoints where residents were provided personal protective clothing and masks before re-entering areas where homes had burned. During week two, staff worked in the field, surveying burned lots for household hazardous waste and hazards. Hazards include melted metals, compromised propane tanks, tree hazards, and well or septic issues. Stage 1 household hazardous wastes were taken to a class 2 or class 1 landfill after assessed at a central staging area. Ninety five percent of homes in the City of Paradise are/were on a septic system, most of which were compromised.

Search and rescue provide the first assessment of hazards on each property after a disaster. After assessing parcels, they spray painting marks on the edge of property to indicate what personnel division performed the inspection, if fatalities were discovered, and any immediate hazards on the property. Surveys of burned parcels are eventually compiled in GIS maps showing all burned properties and the stages of clean-up on each property. Each team performed 10-20 assessments per day. Responders who survey parcels after the initial search and rescue survey are trained on situational awareness such as the possibility of active power lines on the ground, property owners prepared to shoot looters and dangers of navigating unstable back roads and hills in large vehicles.

Many commercial properties in Paradise were also destroyed. Parts of gas stations remained standing, but the majority of gas stations are unable to provide fuel even if the pump remains intact since the electronics that operate the pumps were destroyed.

The US Environmental Protection Agency oversaw the data collection tools and updated parcel survey information as teams reported back. This information would be utilized by local agencies as the cleanup and repopulation of properties progressed.

## 6 Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Update- Rick Johnson, Executive Director

The SAFCA system includes the Folsom Dam and Reservoir on the American River, 106 miles of levees and channels, the Sacramento Weir and Bypass and the Yolo Bypass. Sacramento is currently the most at-risk city in America for riverine flooding. Most areas of Sacramento do not have 100-year flood protection. Over half a million people are in the floodplain along with \$70 billion in damageable property. Flood waters in Sacramento would be deep and cold as opposed to the warm temperatures of Katrina floodwaters in Louisiana.

The flood risk reduction program includes increasing storage and conveyance capability. Levees were never engineered for the load they currently carry as they were designed for agricultural needs. Eighty percent of levee failure is due to under seepage, which means the public may not realize the need for evacuation since that appears less urgent than overtopping. Water shifts the sand and silt under the levee creating space for water to seep through. The Pocket neighborhood in Sacramento had seepage issues in the 2017 rain and flood events.

To strengthen and repair levees, newly designed seepage cut off walls constructed of bentonite, which is impervious, flexible and won't crack, are inserted into the levees. Conveyance capability projects include reconstructing levee slopes and hardening the banks to protect against erosion and increasing flow capacity to 160 ft. per second to handle larger flood events by widening the Sacramento Weir and Yolo bypass. The new Folsom Dam spillway guarantees that water can be released earlier in a flood event.

Recently completed projects include: South Sacramento Streams Group American River Watershed Common Features which utilized new levee standards, Folsom Dam modifications, and South Sacramento Streams Group.

Projects in process include the raising the Folsom Dam by 3.5 feet (4 dams and 8 dikes that make up Folsom Dam), modify gates so they can be closed longer during flood events, and rebuilding 18 of the 42 miles of Natomas Levees. A major challenge in repairing/rebuilding some levees is that homes and businesses on the water side of the levees must remain functional while repairs are being done. New levees were built adjacent to the existing one in cases where roads and homes needed constant access.

2018 was a record year for funding. The total federal and state appropriations available for SAFCA project totals \$2,080,605,185. Challenges to moving forward with construction include finding qualified consulting firms and existing construction companies that have the necessary equipment to do the job. The slurry walls being retrofitted into the levees descend 120 feet and require specialized machinery to dig this deep. The last project only attracted one bidder due to lack of capacity.

**7** Approval of November 2018 Minutes

A motion to approve the November 2018 was made by Mark White, seconded by Tony DeRiggi. Edits to the November minutes requested by commissioners included “downtown intersection” and clarification that the EIR approval in 2012 was for future segments of the road.

Ayes: Richard Hunn, Eric Rivero-Montes, George “Buzz” Link, Mark White, Dr. Anthony DeRiggi, Mark Barry

Noes: None

Abstentions: Margie Namba, Laura Nickerson

**8** Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Director’s Report- Marie Woodin

**9** Commissioner Comments

**10** Adjournment – 8:10 p.m. Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2019, EMD Offices, 10590 Armstrong Ave., Mather, CA 95655

*This meeting is being audiotaped/vidiotaped 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, 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.*