

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2011 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Ed Guerena (Chair), Jesse Arnold, Lynn Enns, David Odell, James Pope, Anne Quinn, Jean Raymond, Mary Jean Sage, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Gina Kirk (excused)

Staff Present: Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer, Jean White

Speakers: Dayna Ravalin (Public Health Department); Marty Settevendemie (Agricultural Department); Karen Lowerison (Agricultural Department); Marc Lea (Agricultural Department); David Rubin (PG&E), Dr. Jerry Bushberg (PG&E)

| Agenda Item                   | Discussion  | Action                               | Who/When               |
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| <b>1. Call to Order</b>       | Meeting called to order by Chair Guerena at 6:00 p.m.   | <i>Call to order</i>                 | <i>Chair Guerena</i>   |
| <b>2. Approval of Minutes</b> | Minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting were approved as written.   | <i>January 2011 minutes approved</i> | <i>Arnold/Enns/All</i> |
| <b>3. Public Comment</b>      | <p><b>David Broadwater</b> referred to two emails he sent to the commission: 1) a letter from Roger Briggs, Central Coast Regional Water Resources Control Board, to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, opposing the registration of the pesticide Methyl Iodide; and 2) excerpts from the Scientific Review Committee’s report, expressing their concerns about the toxicity of Methyl Iodide and registering it as a fumigant. Additionally, Mr. Broadwater handed out a list with the names of the 8 members on the Scientific Review Committee and a description of their qualifications. Mr. Broadwater suggested inviting one or more of the scientists to serve on a panel discussion about the human and environmental health risks of Methyl Iodide when the Health Commission puts together a program on this topic.</p> <p><b>Clint Slaughter, Emergency Room Physician and Chair of ECO SLO</b>, recently completed a Masters of Public Health, working with Dr. Borenstein at the Public Health Department. Dr. Slaughter commended the Public Health Department and staff for what they do for the people of the community, protecting human and environmental health through action, education and prevention and asked for more support of Public Health as it is chronically underappreciated and underfunded. Dr. Slaughter also talked about Methyl Iodide and quoted one of the findings of the Scientific Review Committee: “<i>Due to the potent toxicity of Methyl Iodide, its transport in and ultimate fate in the environment, adequate control of human exposure would be difficult, if not impossible.</i>” He noted that increased health care costs from use of these pesticides will be realized later as we see more neurological &amp; respiratory health problems in workers and potentially consumers. Dr. Slaughter also talked about SmartMeters and their potential as far as energy efficiency. Although he believes some of the health claims are exaggerated, he feels people should be given a choice as to whether or not they want a SmartMeter in their home.</p> <p><b>Jeff Pienack, Oceano, Chair of Surfrider Foundation</b>, talked about their concerns with the agricultural runoff in our County. He referred to the Ag Waiver recently addressed and stated that they believe there is not enough oversight and regulation of the pollutants &amp; pesticides released by farmers that are flowing into our creeks and ocean. He also talked about the dangers of Methyl Iodide as a replacement for Methyl Bromide and believes it is irresponsible to stand by and let approval of this pesticide go unnoticed and asked the commission to take a stance</p> |                                      |                        |

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|   | with regard to Methyl Iodide. Mr. Pienack also talked about his concerns with the safety of Diablo Canyon in our County and asked the Health Commission to address this.   |  |   |
| <b>4. Let's Move SLO</b>  | <p><b>Dayna Ravalin, RD, CDE, PH Nutritionist, SLO County Health Department</b>, provided a Power Point overview of HEAL SLO's "Let's Move SLO" campaign, based on the national initiative to solve the challenge of childhood obesity. Ms. Ravalin explained how HEAL SLO is implementing some of the strategies of the national campaign and talked about their goal and the "five steps to success" for "Let's Move SLO," being launched April 1<sup>st</sup>. During the month of April, San Luis Obispo residents will be able to pledge to do one or all five "Let's Move SLO" challenges: 1) ReThink YourDrink; 2) Eat Fresh/Snack Smart; 3) Gather for family meals; 4) Get up and Move; and 5) Move together as a Group. She explained HEAL-SLO's role and talked about ways community members can take action using their step by step strategies for families, schools &amp; communities. More information is available on their website at <a href="http://www.healslo.com">www.healslo.com</a>.</p> <p><i>Chair Guerena made a motion to recommend and support a Resolution going forward to the Board of Supervisors, proclaiming April 2011 as "Let's Move SLO" month in San Luis Obispo County, urging all residents in San Luis Obispo to participate in the challenge and adopt healthier lifestyles. Motion seconded by Commissioner Odell and all in favor.</i></p>  |  | <i>Motion approved in support of a Resolution proclaiming April 2011 as "Let's Move SLO" month.</i> |
| <b>5. Control &amp; Monitoring Efforts for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter</b> | <p><b>Marty Settevendemie, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner</b>, provided background on the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), explaining how it transmits a bacteria that manifests itself into a variety of plant diseases, including Pierce's Disease, which is fatal to grapevines. He explained that the first GWSS was found in September 2010 in San Luis Obispo and that eradication treatments began last month. He showed a map of infested areas of the GWSS in California, with San Luis Obispo County now considered a partially infested county. He talked about the Agricultural Department's role in prevention efforts through pest exclusion (inspecting all plant material coming in to the County), pest detection (deploying thousands of insect traps throughout the County), and pest eradication (working closely with the CA Department of Food &amp; Agriculture, utilizing protocols in place).</p> <p><b>Karen Lowerison, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner</b>, provided a brief introduction of their pest detection efforts and explained how they focus their efforts on the most likely point of introduction, such as high risk area nurseries, new landscaping and urban residential areas. She explained how traps are used and provided an example of their yellow sticky trap. She defined an infestation of the GWSS and explained how after they found an infestation in the San Luis Obispo Arbors neighborhood, they triggered what they call "delimitation trapping" to determine where the infestation was focused, deploying an additional 100 traps in a core square mile and conducting visual surveys in residences within ¼ mile of the original GWSS find. They will be increasing their trapping over the next couple weeks to up to 300 traps in the core area, which will be monitored for the next two years.</p> <p><b>Marc Lea, Agricultural Inspector/Biologist III</b>, coordinated the eradication efforts in the Arbors neighborhood and explained how they did treatment and the results. The traps and visual surveys done on roughly 500 properties in the area showed an approximate 100 property</p> |  |   |

core area where the infestation occurred, meaning a relatively new infestation. They sent letters to the 500 property owners explaining what they found and the monitoring and treatment program that would be done. They held a public forum on February 1<sup>st</sup> to answer questions about the eradication project. They notified and received approval to do treatment from each resident in advance. He explained the treatment protocol using soil injections of Merit (an imidacloprid insecticide for ornamental host plants) and CoreTest for citrus and explained how biological control is also a part of the process. 57 properties have been treated, with 16 more scheduled this week to conclude the treatment for these properties. There is another block of 20-30 residences where they found some evidence of old egg masses, but no live finds, so are trapping that area heavily. They will continue monitoring through the year, with biological control releases made throughout the growing season and visual surveys scheduled for late summer.

**Commissioner Questions/Comments:**

**Commissioner Odell** asked about treatments being done in the vineyards. *(Mr. Lea explained that there is some trapping in Edna Valley, but there is nothing to prevent the GWSS. If the GWSS got into the vineyard, there are treatments that would take place.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** asked about the risks of using this pesticide and noted the danger of the neonicotinoid pesticide to bees. *(Mr. Lea explained it is very low risk as a systemic and the way the application is done limits any exposure. He explained there is some concern with Imidacloprid and bees, but Imidacloprid moves to the growing tips, with very minimal amounts into the flower and sub-lethal doses to bees. He noted the bigger issue is doing this effectively on a space of 100 properties and eradicating the pest now, before it moves into the grapes, because if it does, the first plan of defense would be using the same product on a larger scale.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** asked if the fruit from the treated citrus trees is safe to eat. *(Mr. Lea answered that the product used is labeled and registered for use on almost every crop in the County and shown to be safe.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** asked how organic growers of wine grapes would be able to treat for the GWSS. *(Mr. Lea noted that since this is the only treatment available, organic growers would have to be prepared from some degree of loss to Pierce's disease.)*

**Commissioner Guerena** asked about the screening of nursery plants coming into the County. *(Mr. Settevendemie explained the monitoring program that has been in place for 10 years inspecting the incoming nursery stock for the presence of the GWSS and that shipments are in compliance with the GWSS quarantine regulations. They look at approximately 5,000 shipments per year and on average, find about 15 infested shipments.)*

**Commissioner Warren** asked about infestations of GWSS in surrounding counties. *(Mr. Settevendemie explained that Monterey County is not infested, a small portion of Kern County is infested and Santa Barbara is partially infested in the southern areas. They all operate under the same Pierce's Disease GWSS control program.)*

**Commissioner Guerena** asked if Methyl Iodide is being used in the County *(Mr. Settevendemie does not believe Methyl Iodide is currently being used in California.)*

**Public Comment:**

**Jeff Pienack** asked what percentage of the 5,000 shipments they inspect come from Southern California. *(Mr. Settevendemie explained they inspect 5,000 shipments related to the GWSS program and look at anything that is a host plant for the GWSS. They get 24 hour notification prior to any shipment coming*

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|  | <p><i>in under the GWSS program. While there are many nurseries in Southern California that may be in an infested area, some are at lower risk because they are outside the core infested area. There are different categories they look at to assess risk. They also inspect a variety of other plant shipments (profiling about 20,000, and physically inspecting 10,000.)</i></p>   |  |  |
| <p><b>6. SmartMeters in San Luis Obispo County</b></p> | <p><b>Patricia Wilmore, Local Area Manager, Governmental Relations, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&amp;E)</b>, introduced David Rubin, Director for Service Analysis, and Dr. Jerry Bushberg, Consultant, Specialist in Health and Nuclear Physics. Ms. Wilmore provided some background on Smart Meter installation in San Luis Obispo County, noting that PG&amp;E is under the purview of the California Public Utilities Commission who have asked that SmartMeters be installed to help consumers access the SmartGrid and gain greater control over their energy usage. To date, they have installed over 40,000 meters, starting in Paso Robles, Atascadero and North County areas.</p> <p><b>David Rubin, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Director for Service Analysis</b>, provided a Power Point overview of PG&amp;E’s SmartMeter Program. The California Energy Policy is an environmentally driven policy program to help customers reduce their energy use and reduce the environmental impact associated with energy use. Mr. Rubin explained how the SmartGrid is a foundational element to the utility future and that SmartMeters are a foundational element to the SmartGrid, allowing customers to become more active participants and providing tools to help customers manage &amp; reduce their energy use. Mr. Rubin explained that the SmartMeter is a digital meter and that one of the key characteristics of the technology is the radio frequency communications on the meter, sending total home energy use information to PG&amp;E on a more frequent basis. Hour-by-hour energy use (from the previous day) will be available to customers through a secure portal on PG&amp;E’s website. Mr. Rubin also described the home energy managing system that in the future will allow pricing information from the meter to help customers manage their energy use of appliances using electricity when it is most cost effective. Mr. Rubin provided an overview of the benefits of the SmartMeter technology that include convenient meter reading, responding to outages more quickly, accommodating different billing cycle requests, remote start up of service after customers move, faster problem resolution, better billing and alerts to customers when they are moving up in “tiers” during their billing cycle.</p> <p>Mr. Rubin explained next steps: letters will be mailed to customers a couple of weeks in advance of SmartMeters being installed and customers are given a phone number to call with questions. Credentialed installers will identify themselves notifying the resident of the installation and/or leave a door hanger with detailed meter-reading instructions. The customer will later receive a kit that provides more information on how they can take advantage of the information that is provided through the technology.</p> <p>Mr. Rubin addressed some of the questions that have been raised about SmartMeters: 1) Accuracy of billing – the Public Utilities Commission ordered a study and concluded that SmartMeters were accurate, but did conclude that PG&amp;E wasn’t doing a good enough job in informing customers of what was coming and the characteristics of the meters. 2) Privacy issues – PG&amp;E applies the same privacy protection standards to all data collected by the</p> |  |  |

company from customers including the usage data collected by the SmartMeter system. Third parties will not have any access to information. PG&E will not have visibility into the customer's home to see how each individual appliance is using energy. 3) Radio frequency transmission – transmission has been studied extensively and they are operating well below the guidelines established by the Federal Communications Commission. The California Council on Science & Technology's draft report concluded that there is no scientific evidence to support health risks associated with SmartMeters. The strongest transmission from any PG&E SmartMeter is 1 watt. Cell Phones are also about 1 watt, but the cell phone is held much closer to the body than a SmartMeter which is outside the home. On average, a SmartMeter only transmits for 45 seconds per day.

Mr. Rubin advised that the California Public Utilities Commission has directed PG&E to prepare a proposal for consideration that will allow an opt-out option for customers who object to these devices. PG&E will be presenting a set of recommendations within two weeks.

**Commissioner Questions/Comments:**

**Commissioner Odell** asked why so many counties have passed resolutions. *(Mr. Rubin explained that while many communities have passed resolutions, many more have not, and they have been working with these communities to understand their concerns.)*

**Commissioner Quinn** asked for more information on the signal transmission to individual appliances. *(Mr. Rubin explained that in the future various home appliances will likely be equipped with communication chips that will respond to pricing signals, so you can program those appliances to cycle down or run during low peak hours. With the primary communication channel (activated when the SmartMeter is installed) overall energy consumption information is sent to PG&E and customers will be able to securely go to PG&E.com to see their energy usage from the day before on an hourly-by-hourly basis.)*

**Commissioner Quinn** asked if PG&E charges differently for peak hours. *(Mr. Rubin explained that only a small subset of residential customers are on time of day pricing (with a peak period noon-6PM, but as more SmartMeters are deployed, more customers will get pricing on an hourly basis.)*

**Commissioner Arnold** asked how the system knows if a transmission line is out of service. *(Mr. Rubin explained that additional devices on the SmartGrid and SmartMeters provide real time information about the operation of the grid.)*

**Commissioner Quinn** asked for more information about the 45 seconds of transmission. *(Dr. Jerry Bushberg explained that information is gathered continuously and then transmitted 4 times per day for brief intervals, for an average of 45 seconds per day.)*

**Commissioner Quinn** asked about testing done on SmartMeter exposure. *(Dr. Jerry Bushberg explained that maximum power use exposure compliance has to be met and approved by the FCC, in compliance with emission standards. Additional testing has been done to measure exposure. In an apartment setting, it is unlikely that all meters would be transmitting simultaneously and each individual meter, even at maximum exposure, is a very small fraction of the standard. Also, with electromagnetic radiation or energy, the further you are away from the source, the exposure intensity falls off very rapidly.)*

**Commissioner Quinn** asked if the computer chips on appliances can be turned off. *(Mr. Rubin doesn't know the details yet, but the way it is currently structured, there would have to be a request to turn it on.)*

**Commissioner Guereña** asked if there was a model (virtual or real) set up to show benefits and at what point installation wouldn't make sense. *(Mr. Rubin answered that there are some pilot projects*

*underway. He explained that the program as it was designed & approved by the Public Utilities Commission and implemented so far, hasn't considered at some point customers not participating.)*  
**Commissioner Warren** referred to the installation of over 2 million SmartMeters by Southern California Edison and asked when SmartMeters were first installed. *(Mr. Rubin did not have that information readily available.)*

**Commissioner Warren** asked if this technology might help locate marijuana grow houses. *(Privacy protection standards would prohibit sharing electrical consumption by a user and PG&E would not know what the electricity is being used for.)*

**Commissioner Pope** provided information on signal intensity of the SmartMeter and noted that a SmartMeter has been installed at his home. He has found it to be very easy to read, although he struggles a bit with the health aspect and asked for more information on relative intensity of the SmartMeter vs. a cell phone or Wi-Fi signal. *(Dr. Jerry Bushberg provided an analogy that if you spent 24 hours per day next to a SmartMeter, your exposure would be equivalent to walking by someone talking on their cell phone.)*

**Commissioner Raymond** asked where access points are mounted. *(Mr. Rubin explained that there is an access point approximately every 5 miles mounted on an existing vertical structure (light stand or telephone pole) intended to receive signals.)*

**Public Comment:**

**Judy Vick** advised the public who are having health symptoms from SmartMeters that there soon will be an opt out option. She advised that the California Public Utilities Commission has directed PG&E to provide an opt out option for those who want to protect their health, as well as their security. She noted that the European Environment Agency has taken measures to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields, especially radiofrequencies from mobile phones, and particularly exposure to children and young adults. She asked that the commission provide equal time (as PG&E was given) to speak about the alternatives and serious public health risks associated to SmartMeters and electromagnetic frequencies.

**Linda Ecata** commented that wireless SmartMeters have caused healthy people to become sensitive to wireless environments. She noted that meters can transmit 1-2 miles and sensitive persons are getting hurt from meters in their neighborhood. There is no proof of safety. She talked about study results showing very high full body exposure to radio frequencies, noting that in Spain, some cell towers have been removed, and in France, Wi-Fi has been removed from libraries. She referred to a handout she provided to the commission in October, showing the health effects that are being seen and commented that in 2006 the WHO strongly recommended limiting EMF exposure to people.

**Ann Harris** talked about the health effects she has been experiencing since PG&E installed a SmartMeter at her home. She became concerned when her heart started skipping beats and realized that it only happens when she is sitting in her living room on the other side of the wall from where the SmartMeter was installed. She noted that the WHO classified extremely low frequency electromagnetic as a possible carcinogenic. She asked that others try taking their pulse when sitting in close proximity to their SmartMeter, and hopes that there will be more study of this. She recommends a wired option.

**Dr. Margaret Carman, Chiropractor**, commented on the wealth of knowledge that the previous speakers have on how dangerous SmartMeters and electromagnetic radiofrequencies are to our bodies. She referred to an article published in February 2011 where scientists urged the halt of the wireless roll-out and called for new safety standards that warn of the risks to children and pregnant women. She commented on the health effects already being seen due to the relatively new wireless technologies, and that the exposures are already too high to protect people from the health hazards. Dr. Carman is glad that an opt out option may be available, but does not believe it is fair that people should have to pay to NOT have something that they didn't want in the first place. She asked the commission to listen to the

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|   | <p>concerns of the people who do not want SmartMeters in their homes.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell made a motion that the Health Commission support the action taken by the Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2011, requesting the California Public Utilities Commission to direct PG&amp;E to suspend installation of SmartMeters until the California Legislature acts on current proposed legislation, AB 37 (Huffman), that would give consumers options to the installation of wireless SmartMeters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Arnold. No further discussion. All in favor.</b></p>  | <p><i>Motion passed to support the action taken by the Board of Supervisors requesting the CPUC to direct PG&amp;E to provide an opt-out option for consumers.</i></p> |  |
| <p><b>7. Health Agency / Public Health Report</b></p> | <p><b>Dr. Borenstein</b> reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Health Agency “painfully” went through the process of identifying and submitting a 3.9 million dollar reduction budget to the County Administrative Office. Although the reductions may not go that deep, they will be significant. Dr. Borenstein provided a brief overview of the reductions, which will be discussed in more detail by the Health Commission’s budget committee and at next month’s meeting. <i>(It was briefly discussed and agreed by commissioners that the Health Commission is a good venue for getting information out to the public about the consequences of these reductions; all subject to review until the Board of Supervisors takes action in June.)</i></li> <li>▪ Due to the events in Japan, the Health Department is receiving a lot of inquiries from people interested in receiving Potassium Iodide (KI). Dr. Borenstein advised that County officials are receiving regular updates from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and wanted to clear rumors of “the plume being halfway across the Pacific.” She emphasized that there is no risk at this time from the events happening in Japan. Persons who live within the Diablo Canyon Emergency Planning Zones can pick up a supply of KI from the San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach Public Health Departments to put in their emergency supply kits, but there is no recommendation to obtain KI as a result of recent incidents in Japan. KI is a supplementary protective action that may be recommended should a radioactive release occur at Diablo Canyon Power Plan and should NOT be ingested unless ordered by the County Health Officer.</li> <li>▪ An ordinance will be going forward to the Board of Supervisors in early May for County-wide smoke-free campuses.</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <p><b>8. Health Commissioner Updates</b></p>          | <p><b>Chair Guerena:</b> Attended the HEAL SLO meeting and referred to Dayna Ravalin’s presentation tonight about the “Let’s Move SLO” campaign.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Pope:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Quinn:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Arnold:</b> Attended the HIV Care Consortium meeting last Thursday, where the State Director of the Department of AIDS was present and spoke. The AIDS Support Network reported that they have 31 new clients in the past year. <i>(Commissioner Warren asked if they were newly diagnosed or people that moved to our community. A follow up email from Edie Kahn, AIDS Support Network, was forwarded to commissioners with a break-down of the number -- out of 31 people, 11 were new diagnosis at intake.)</i></p> <p><b>Commissioner Kirk:</b> Absent tonight. Commissioner Odell reported that Commissioner Kirk filled in for Commissioners Odell &amp; Williams on the Preventive Health Grant Committee and</p>  |  |  |

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|                                     | <p>attended all of the meetings. She will report further next month.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Odell:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns:</b> No report.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Warren:</b> Was unable to attend the Drug &amp; Alcohol Services Advisory Board. She noted from the minutes that they have eliminated an IT person and that Drug &amp; Alcohol Services is moving to a new online system for recordkeeping.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sage:</b> The Domestic Violence Task Force meets this week. They are planning a public information meeting in October to educate providers on signs, symptoms, and “what they need to know” as reporters of domestic violence. They are still working on the venue.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Raymond:</b> Attended the Adult Services Policy Council where Jeff Hamm explained the Agency’s prioritized cuts and their consequences; Supervisor Gibson explained their process of talking with departments and individuals to make informed decisions. CHC was also present to provide an update on two additional sites they added within the last month, 1 in SLO / 1 in No County. <i>(Commissioner Warren praised CHC for their services, noting it is fortunate they can take advantage of federal funding.)</i></p> |                          |  |
| <b>9. Committee Reports</b>         | Nominating Committee and Budget Committee will meet this month and report at next month’s meeting.  |                          |  |
| <b>10. Prospective Future Items</b> | <p><b><u>April 2011:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budget: Report from budget committee and/or report from Jeff Hamm.</li> <li>▪ Update on healthcare reform/State’s low income health program/Medi-Cal Waiver</li> <li>▪ Child Abuse Prevention Council - invite Lisa Fraser to talk about budget cuts/new projects – <i>suggested by Commissioner Warren, if time permits.</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Suggested future items:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methyl Iodide – Invite Roger Briggs /Ag Commissioner /Scientific Review Committee rep</li> <li>▪ Smoke pollution</li> </ul>  |                          |  |
| <b>11. Adjournment</b>              | Motion to adjourn at 9:08 pm.   | <i>Meeting adjourned</i> |  |