



ECOS Mtg/Board AGENDA



American River Watershed Forest Management Mega Fires, Water Supply, and the Environment

Join us Wednesday, May 29, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on Zoom for this presentation.
The ECOS Board meeting will follow from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

LINK to join: [ECOS ZOOM 6656164155](#) or call: 1 669 900 6833, Mtg ID: 665 616 4155

FULL MEETING AGENDA below

The forest lands of the American River Watershed are an integral component of our Region’s ecosystem, providing habitat for wildlife and residents, recreational opportunities for all, carbon sequestration and timber harvesting, and a critical source for the capture, storage and release of water resources for us, the delta, and downstream beneficial water uses.

Join ECOS and a panel of experts on May 29 from 6 pm until 7 pm to learn about how Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) has become involved in ecological forest management and the science behind implementing this work. Learn how the last century of forest management has degraded ecological sustainability and contributed to the megafires that threaten the future of forests. Discuss what is being done to correct these mistakes and what we all can do to sustainably manage our watershed and others throughout the west.

- **Tony Firenzi**, Director of Strategic Affairs with PCWA, will provide an overview of how his agency interfaces with the forest environment and the business case for their leadership in managing forest lands. Tony will closeout the discussion with critical policy matters that need collaborative resolution to continue on a trajectory of progress.
- **Marie Davis**, Registered Geologist and consultant to PCWA, will expand on the case for ecological forest management and present the partnerships and collaboration that are necessary to advance these projects. She will use PCWA’s French Meadows Forest Restoration Project as an example and discuss the collaboration with federal, state, and local government, NGOs, and UC Merced to bring this project to success. She will present efforts to respond to both wildfire damage and what work needs to be carried out to protect the forests from the ravages of future wildfires.

The survival of our forest lands is critical to all our lives and environment, both regionally and globally, so it is essential that ECOS consider these and other perspectives. Bring your issues, questions, and ideas on the 29th and join the conversation.

FULL MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00 pm Welcome – Ted Rauh, acting ECOS Board President
- 6:05 Introduction of American River Watershed presenters -- Tony Firenzi, Director of Strategic Affairs, and Marie Davis, consultant, Placer County Water Agency
- 6:50 Q & A
- 7:00 Board Meeting -- welcome
Approvals
 - Minutes -- ECOS MTG / Board Meeting Jan 31, 2024 (below)
 - Agenda – ECOS Board Meeting March 26, 2024
- 7:05 Earth Day Report – Michael O’Sullivan and Alex Reagan
- 7:15 Habitat Committee – Sean Wirth, Rob Burness
- 7:15 Water Committee – Ted Rauh
- 7:25 Organizational Development Committee – Jon Ellison, Dawn Whitney
- 7:35 Climate Committee – Ralph Propper
- 7:45 Open Session

Draft Minutes of the March 26, 2024, ECOS Board Meeting

President Susan Herre called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Susan Herre, Ralph Propper, Rob Burness, Ted Rauh, Michael O’Sullivan, John Deeter, Luz Lim, Jon Ellison, Sam Rice, Tina Suarez-Murias, Dawn Whitney, Ron Maertz, Anushka Kaylan, Ashlyn Zentner, Sherry Rice, Andy Sawyer.

Other ECOS Members and Guests: Michael Wackman, Melinda Frost-Hurzel, Toby Stegman, Suzanne Peccl, Steve Schweigerdt, Greg O’Brien, Jessica Law, Debra Bishop, David Moldoff, Lynn Wheat, Alan Hirsch, Bryan Young, Steven BeBry, Brittany Friedman, Mark Baker, Ted Frink, Brendan O’Sullivan, Joel Leong, Laura Warren, Neil Dubrovsky, David von Aspern, Kerry Schmidt, Muriel Strand, Susan Rainier.

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

I. Cosumnes River Watershed

Melinda Frost-Hurzel, Cosumnes Coalition Coordinator, provided an overview of the Cosumnes watershed. The Cosumnes River is a major source of groundwater recharge—much greater than the American River. It also serves important habitat values.

Steve Schweigert made presentation on the Wilton Land Back Multi Benefit Restoration Project. It is in one of the few places in the area with valley oak woodlands. And old gravel pit could be used to moderate peak flows, as well as for groundwater recharge and habitat restoration.

Michael Wackman, General Manager of the Omochumne-Hartnell Water District reviewed the district’s groundwater recharge projects. The district is also conducting modeling to determine where setback levees and other measures are appropriate. And the district is conducting monitoring for purposes of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation.

II. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Maertz, seconded by Burness): that the minutes of the January 31, 2024, ECOS board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously. Motion (Maertz, seconded by Burness): that the agenda of the March 26, 2024, ECOS board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

III. Finance

Treasurer Sherry Rice presented the proposed ECOS 2024 budget for approval. Motion (Sawyer, seconded by Ellison) that the ECOS budget as proposed be approved. Approved unanimously.

III. Habitat

Rob Burness reported that Habitat 2020 has been working with the Natomas working group. Additional development is being proposed north of the airport.

Habitat 2020 is also working on the Delta Conveyance project and a waste project in the Delta.

The City of Folsom is having an informational hearing on the south of Folsom project, which violates the urban services boundary concept.

IV. Water

Ted Rauh reported that the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies just submitted their annual reports. The Water Committee will focus on the 2025 plan review.

The Water Committee is preparing a draft op-ed piece on water conservation in urban outdoor use.

The Water Committee is also highlighting the water issues concerning the south of Folsom project.

The committee also wrote a letter on levee construction, observing how it can be done in a more environmentally friendly fashion.

V. Organizational Development

Dawn Whitney reported the Organizational Development Committee has prepared a draft duty statement for ECOS president and a draft policy on acceptance of donations.

Luz Lim reported on the progress on preparation of an environmental justice grant proposal.

Susan Herre reported on the progress of hiring a policy analyst.

VI. Climate

Sam Rice reported on the March 27 event on Del Paso Boulevard. There will be a walking tour of possible infill sites and the proposed rail station, and the main event at the Rink Studio. <https://www.ecosacramento.net/2024/03/envisioning-our-transit-oriented-future-del-paso-boulevard-3-27-2024/>

Ralph Proper provided an update on Sacramento Investment Without Displacement. The Sacramento City Council held a workshop on the proposed community benefits agreements ordinance.

A meeting with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) has been postponed until April 4. The meeting will discuss the toll lane joint powers agreement.

Based on comments from the California Air Resources Board and environmental groups, the California Transportation Commission has postponed consideration of state funding of the I-80 expansion until mid-May.

The City of Sacramento has approved a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and general plan update.

There has been no apparent progress on the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan.

Sam Rice reported that SACOG will meet in April to discuss the metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) sustainable communities strategy (SCS), including consideration of whether there will be alternatives that meet the California Air Resources Board required 19% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the SACOG region.

Ralph Proper reported that the region is in violation of the new federal fine particulate (PM 2.5) standard.

The next Climate Committee will be on April 4.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.