

Energy Commission: January 12, 2000 Summary

NOTE CHANGE FROM REGULAR DATE

North Berkeley Senior Center

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gorrell at 7:40 PM.

Present: Bachrach, Cain, Denver, Gorrell, Ode and Williamson

Absent: Coleman and Siegel

Staff: Neal De Snoo

2. Public Comments

Staff distributed a General Plan workshop schedule.

Staff reported that several Commissioners are about to be terminated due to attendance but that they may be reappointed.

Susan Ode, a new Commissioner, introduced herself.

3. Discussion of Draft Resolution on Reusable Bottles

Commissioners Gorrell and Williamson reported that the Solid Waste Commission is recommending that Council establish a curbside plastics recycling program. The Plastics Task Force has taken a position against such a program and has outlined conditions that should be imposed should Council decide to authorize the program (conditions such as how the collected materials will be used).

Commissioner Williamson reported that Berkeley has fewer plastics in its refuse than any other local cities that recycle plastics.

4. Report on Solid Waste Management Commission, Public Works Commission, Transportation Commission and Citizens Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)

Commissioner Bachrach reported that the Transportation Commission will be voting on the bicycle plan next week and the Bicycle Friendly Bicycle Coalition is urging people to attend and support passage. Commissioner Bachrach volunteered to be the liaison to the Transportation Commission.

Staff reported that Rene Cardinaux has been appointed as the new Director of Public Works.

5. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that the 1999 LIHEAP project has been completed and the 2000 project is underway. Staff reported that a rebid of the PG&E Energy Partners Program is not likely this year.

6. Discussion on Electric Utility Restructuring

Staff is investigating participation in the ABAG power pool, which now has an agreement to purchase geothermal energy at rates below the standard tariffs. It is expected that the City will begin service with ABAG in July.

7. Discussion of Proposed PG&E Rate Increase

The PUC decision has been delayed again until February. The Commission took issue with PG&E's position that an underground cable replacement that was in PG&E's capital plan has been postponed because it appears that PG&E's rate increase request will be reduced. The Commission will discuss possible actions on this issue at its next meeting.

8. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported the new RECO guide has been published and distributed and a CECO enforcement program is forthcoming.

9. Report on Electric Fleet Vehicles

Staff reported that one of the three new electric fleet vehicles has been received and the other two are forthcoming.

Commissioner Williamson reported that he is interested in using bio-diesel for Berkeley Worms (UC coop).

Commissioner Denver proposed that the Commission consider policies that would make it safer and more practical for lightweight and clean fuel vehicles in Berkeley. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Cain posed the question about whether traffic calming might increase vehicle emissions. He also suggested that signage may improve traffic flow on streets with timed signals. Staff will follow-up on both issues.

10. Commissioner Recruitment

No discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Earth Day Activities

Staff distributed a revised draft of the emissions reduction pledge card for comment.

12. Approval of Minutes from December 1

The minutes of the December 1 meeting were approved (MSC: DW, AD: 2-0-4, MG, SO, BB and JC abstained).

13. Items for Next Month's Agenda

The regular meeting time was changed from 7:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Earth Day activities were moved to the Discussion Agenda. Lightweight and Clean Fuels Vehicles was added to the discussion agenda. PG&E Capital Improvements and Election of Officers were added to the Action Agenda.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM (MSC: AD, DW, 5-0-1, MG abstained).