



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 22, 2000

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Siegel at 5:40 PM.

Present: Cain, Denver, Ode Siegel, and Williamson

Absent: Bachrach

Staff: Neal De Snoo

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Discussion of Draft Resolution on Reusable Bottles

No report.

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

Commissioner Cain reported that the CEAC meeting agenda was not on the City's web page and he has requested to be put on the mailing list. Commissioner Williamson reported that Council voted in favor of curbside plastics recycling. He also reported that the Solid Waste Commission will be considering a reuseable container policy in June. Commissioner Siegel reported that the Public Works Commission is considering utility undergrounding issues and suggested that the Energy Commission look into the issue. Staff will make arrangements to get the Commission involved in this issue.

5. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that the LIHEAP close out report is nearly complete.

6. Discussion on Electric Utility Restructuring

No report.

7. Discussion of Proposed PG&E Rate Increase

No report.

8. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that it is preparing a proposal in response to PG&E's RFP for codes and standards. The project would strengthen CECO enforcement, provide training for permitting personnel, provide for early intervention in major projects and, possibly, provide incentives to exceed Title 24 standards.

9. Discussion of Potential Policy Initiatives

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Held over.

10. Discussion of Earth Day Activities
Staff reminded the Commission of the April 22 festival, encouraged Commissioners to get their friend and neighbors to turn in pledge cards and reported on a new display.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
Commissioner Siegel was elected chair (MSC: AD, JC, 5-0). Commissioner Ode was elected Vice Chair (MSC: DW, JS, 5-0).
12. Discussion and Possible Action on PG&E Capital Improvements for Service Reliability
Staff summarized a staff report on the PG&E outages and the company's response. Staff reported on a meeting with PG&E engineers where the issue of cable replacement was discussed. In May, PG&E will present to the Commission a strategy to reduce the number and/or duration of outages. This strategy will focus on improving fault detection, fault isolation and switching.
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Transmittal to Community Environmental Advisory Commission Regarding Tritium Exit Signs
The Commission discussed the lack of published data on the risks associated with tritium exit signs. Staff will work with the secretary of the CEAC to include representatives from the Energy Commission on discussions on this issue.
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation to Council Regarding Participation in ABAG Power Pool
The Commission passed the following motion (MSC: JC, AD, 5-0): *The Berkeley Energy Commission recommends that Council adopt a policy that the City shall endeavor to use savings that may result from future reductions in electric rates to purchase long-term high-quality renewable power for municipal facilities, and, in the interim, that Council authorize the City to purchase renewable power through the Association of Bay Area Governments electric power pool.*
15. Approval of Minutes from January 26 and February 22
The minutes of January 26 were approved (MSC: AD, SO, 3-0-2, JS and JC abstained). The minutes of February 22 were approved (MSC: JC, JS, 2-0-3, AD, SO and DW abstained).
16. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Several items were removed.
17. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM (MSC: AD, SO, 5-0-0).