



BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 13, 2000

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Siegel at 5:4 PM.

Present: Bachrach, Denver, Ode, Siegel and Williamson

Absent: Cain

Staff: Neal De Snoo

2. Public Comments

Harvey Sherback presented a plan he is working on to install solar systems on Habitat for Humanity houses.

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

No reports.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

No report.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that Council passed the first reading of an ordinance amending CECO that would increase enforceability with respect to title transfers.

6. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Policy Statement and Implementation Plans

No report.

7. Report on Renewable Energy

Staff presented a draft Council resolution (attached) that would restore public agencies' access to the renewable energy customer credits. This resolution was moved to the Action Agenda (MSC: SO, JS, 5-0).

Staff reported on the impacts of the loss of the customer credit and the electric rates spikes on the City's plans to purchase high quality renewable energy. Staff distributed a draft RFP for renewables.

Commissioner Williamson inquired whether it was possible to provide electricity services to the community. There was a discussion of the community choice initiative which would allow residents to automatically become customers of a municipally-sponsored energy service provider (under current law, residents must opt in and the marketing costs would overwhelm such an enterprise). Staff will invite Paul Fenn, an advocate for this initiative, to speak to the Commission. Staff will also add provisions for community access to the RFP for municipal power.

8. Report on Residential Energy Consumption
Commissioner Siegel reported that 5 energy experts at LBL have agreed to provide a briefing for the Commission. Jeff will schedule an event at LBL in early November.

9. Report on Educational Activities
Commissioner Denver reported that she will sign up the Commission to teach a Berkeley Adult School class this winter.

10. Discussion of Expiration of the Electricity Ratecap
Staff reported it will be meeting with the City's lobbyist to develop a position on legislative responses to the impending expiration of the electricity rate freeze.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Report on Renewable Energy
Moved to Action Agenda. Staff presented a draft Council resolution (attached) that would restore public agencies' access to the renewable energy customer credits. Commissioner Ode expressed concerns over language that limits the credit to the incremental cost of renewable energy but staff advised that a bill to completely restore the credit would probably not be successful. The recommended that Council pass the resolution (MSC: AD, SO, 5-0).

11. Approval of Minutes of June 21 and July 26
The minutes of June 21 were passed (MSC: JS, AD, 4-0-1, DB abstained).

The minutes of July 26 were passed (MSC: AD, DW, 3-0-2, JS and DB abstained).

12. Items for Next Month's Agenda

A report from the ad hoc committee on renewable energy was added to the agenda.

13. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM (MSC: DW, DB, 5-0).