



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2001

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: Bachrach, Cain, Deumling, Ode, Packard, Siegel, Trowbridge and Williamson

Absent: Denver

Staff: Neal De Snoo

2. Public Comments

Staff announced that there would be a commissioner's training on March 6.

Several members of the public commented on the energy crisis.

Charles Betcher, Chair of the Commission on Aging (CoA), thanked representatives from the Energy Commission for the presentation at the last CoA meeting. He argued that PG&E's failures indicate the need for public power and cited that there are over 2000 municipal electric utilities in the country.

Ed Hoslinger urged the Commission to explore distributed generation, such as fuel cells, flywheels and small turbines.

Charles Smith reported on the benefits of cogeneration and recommended that all Fire and Police Stations be so equipped. He reported that PG&E was granted franchises on the dams and that the State has not fulfilled its duties regarding constraints on renewal of those franchises. He indicated that EBMUD may be a viable alternative to PG&E.

Bruce Gartner, a photovoltaic (PV) installer, reported that home PV systems range from \$8,000 to 30,000, plus \$5-7,000 for battery backup options. The net cost (after State rebates) of a system that could power a typical home is about \$22,000.

3. Notice of Commissioner's Budget Workshop

Staff reminded the Commission about the budget workshop.

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

Commissioners Williamson and Siegel and staff reported on their meeting with the Commission on Aging.

5. Report on Low Income Programs  
Staff reported the City is expecting significant increases in LIHEAP funding due to federal emergency appropriations.
6. Report on CECO and RECO  
Staff reported training for Building and Safety staff on Title 24 and CECO will begin on January 30.  
  
Staff reported that staff have been assigned to enforce CECO.
7. Report on Renewable Energy  
To be discussed under municipal ownership.
8. Report on Residential Energy Consumption  
Commissioner Siegel reported that a session has been scheduled for February 15 at LBNL at noon. Commissioner Siegel will prepare an agenda for posting. LBNL staff will discuss energy issues with the Commission and the Commission will discuss Commission activities with LBNL.
9. Report on Educational Activities  
No report.
10. Discussion of City's bid for the North American Preparatory Meeting of the Rio+10 Conference  
Staff reported that Council has committed \$30,000 to host the North American Preparatory Meeting of the Rio+10 Conference this spring. The application is pending.

#### ACTION ITEMS

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Referral Regarding Municipalization of the Electric System  
The Commission identified a set of criteria for evaluating options, listed several options and assessed these options according to the criteria. The attached chart summarizes the assessment.  
  
The Commission opened up the floor for additional public comments.  
  
Barbara George reported on the potential benefits of municipal ownership. She reported that San Marcos, CA recently municipalized. She reported that municipalization could take two forms – Council governance or governance by an independent board (municipal utility district). She provided various articles and documents on municipal ownership. She cited that savings due to salary and profit reductions could be as high as 20%.  
  
Budd Dickenson expressed his support for conservation and a study of long-term options. He suggested pursuing partnerships with other municipalities. He suggested that the General Plan include a long-term conservation plan.  
  
The Commission passed the attached resolution and authorized an ad hoc committee (DW, SO, JS, DB) to finalize the language of the Council report MSC: (JC, SO, 8-0).  
  
An ad hoc committee was formed to prepare a presentation to Council (JS, MT, SO, RD).
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Berkeley Without Wires plan  
Commissioner Williamson suggested that an undergrounding plan accommodate space for upstream interval meters. The Commission passed a motion authorizing him to prepare a resolution for consideration at the next meeting (MSC: SO, JC, 8-0).
13. Approval of Minutes of December 13 and January 4  
The minutes of both meetings were passed (MSC: JC, SO, 5-0-3, FP, RD and MT abstained).

14.     Items for Next Month's Agenda

Elections, a report on the LBNL meeting and a briefing on the Utility Users Tax were added to the agenda.

15.     Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM (MSC: FP, JC, 8-0).

	Forms of Ownership					Forms of Organization				Demand	
	Municipal ownership of distribution	Municipal ownership of underground wires	Municipal ownership of power supply	Distributed generation	State or regional ownership	Opt out aggregation	Opt in aggregation	Regulation	Retail competition	Conservation and efficiency	Climatic load profiles
Conservation	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	?	?	+	?
System efficiency	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?
Renewable sources	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	0	0
Reliability	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	?	+	+
Cost	?	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	?	+	+
Social equity	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Feasibility	+	?	+	+	?	-	+	?	-	+	-
Time	long	long	long	short	long	Long	short	long	long	short	sort
Straw pole	5					6				7	3

#### Critical issues/assumptions

##### Municipal Ownership

- Condition and valuation of system
- Comparative cost of maintaining and operating the system
- Legal authorities to acquire system
- Comparative abilities to procure favorable supply

##### Distributed generation

- Can DG be isolated to improve reliability?

##### Opt-Out Aggregation

- Can City isolate load profile?
- Enabling legislation needed
- Comparative abilities to procure favorable supply

##### Conservation and efficiency

- How well can conservation and efficiency be targeted to deal with equity

##### Climatic load profiles

- State authorization needed
- How does City load profile compare with average?

Attachments

environmental policy  
EC/CM reports