



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
June 27, 2001

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ode at 5:35 PM.

Present: Bachrach, Kurzweil, Ode, Packard, Siegel and Winkel

Absent: Deumling and Williamson

Staff: Neal De Snoo

Guests: Maria Sanders, George Nesbit

2. Public Comments

Commissioners Ode and Packard reported on the Telegraph Area Philips lighting press event.

George Nesbit reported that he is performing duct testing and sealing for low-income households under a CESC program.

Commissioner Bachrach stated that legislation restoring the renewable energy credits for public agencies is likely to pass.

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

Solid Waste: No report.

Public Works: Commissioner Siegel reported that undergrounding has been fully suspended by PG&E.

CEAC: No report.

Transportation Commission: No report.

Council: Staff reported that Council endorsed the roll your own blackout campaign.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that the State has appropriated additional funding for LIHEAP.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that the CECO enforcement notice was sent out and enforcement will begin after the grace period and after data is available.

Staff will forward the Commission's suggestions for RECO revisions to the consultant who will be working on the community energy plan.

6. Report on Educational Activities

Commissioners should send Commissioner Packard descriptions of what they would be willing to teach at a Berkeley Adult School energy class.

7. Discussion of Community Energy Plan

Staff reported on the development of the community energy plan, including the Energy Technical Advisory Group and the public process involving the Commission.

Staff reported that legislation for community aggregation may be considered this fall but has some opposition.

The Commission provided staff with recommendations for retail outlets for the bulk-purchasing program.

8. Report on CESC By-Laws
Commissioner Siegel reported that City Attorney staff has changed its position (from positive to negative) on the feasibility of separating the CESC Board from the Energy Commission. Commissioner Siegel will discuss the details with staff and report back at the next meeting.
9. Report on Public Power Meeting with EBMUD
Staff reported that EBMUD has convened two meetings with local governments to discuss public power. Representatives from Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, Alameda and the Port of Oakland have attended. At the last meeting, EBMUD reported that it has contracted with a consultant to prepare a strategic plan for power acquisition and to conduct a prefeasibility study of public power. The Port of Oakland reported that it is reexamining its role as a power provider.
10. Discussion of Energy Awards Program
There was a discussion of Commissioner Deumling's proposal. The Commission agreed that it was sound and that Commissioner Deumling should develop it for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Discussion and Possible Action on the Berkeley Green Building Initiative
Maria Sanders of the Green Resource Center summarized the Green Building Initiative, which was prepared by consultants and staff. She presented a resolution supporting the initiative to the Commission. The resolution recommended that Council authorize a budget for the program and hire staff.

A motion was made to adopt the resolution (MS: SO, SW).

There was a discussion of the budget impacts. Staff noted that the initiative was included in the Energy Office's proposed plan but funding for may need further Council action. Staff reported that one potential source of funding could be increases in utility users tax revenues.

The Commission expressed concern over hiring a career service staff person for a program development position. Staff suggested that the position could be project-based and not permanent.

Commissioner Siegel stated that he supports the program but has some concerns about equity. Specifically, the program would probably not have much impact on existing lower-income housing.

The resolution was amended to address the budget and staff concerns.

The amended resolution was passed 6-0.
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Cool Communities Initiative
Staff referenced a Council referral regarding the State's Cool Communities Initiative. The referral recommended that the City utilize light roof coloring to reduce municipal energy loads and consider standards for private sector buildings. Staff reported that staff and ETAG support light roof coloring on municipal buildings but the limited savings opportunities (because of the limited cooling loads in City buildings) make this less of a priority than other energy retrofit work planned with the existing budget. Staff and the ETAG recommended that the private sector standards be referred to the community energy planning process. The Commission agreed with the staff and ETAG recommendation (MSC: JS, SO, 6-0)
13. Approval of Minutes of May 16
The minutes of May 16 were passed (MSC: JS, SO, 3-0-3 JK, SW, FP abstained).
14. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Berkeley Youth Energy Services, solar permitting, and diesel generators were added to the agenda.
15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM (JK, JS, 6-0).