



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2001

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: Bachrach, Deumling, Kurzweil, Ode, Packard, Siegel and Williamson

Absent: Winkel

Staff: Neal De Snoo

2. Public Comments

Commissioner Packard reported that she was pleased with the BYES services. Commissioner Siegel reported that the refrigerator coil cleaning by BYES might not be very effective. Commissioner Ode suggested quantifying the BYES savings next year.

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

Solid Waste: No report.

Public Works: No report

CEAC: No report.

Transportation Commission: No report.

Council: Staff reported that Council approved the CESC small business contract and a refrigerator replacement contract.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that about 100 refrigerators will be replaced through the program this year.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that the grace period for CECO was through May 21 and that data on sales since then will not be available until next month.

Staff reported that the RECO inspection contract will be rebid.

6. Report on Educational Activities

Commissioner Packard reported that the next session for the Berkeley Adult School will begin at the end of January or early February. The deadline for the catalogue is coming up and she will prepare a 100-word course description. If we can meet the publishing deadline, the EC will teach a course this winter, otherwise it will teach a course in the spring. Classes will be held on Mondays from 7-8:30 PM. There can be 5 to 8 classes. Topics include: understanding the energy crises (DB); DIY conservation measures (ND); low-tech and no-tech conservation measures (RD); myths of energy conservation (JS); you can reduce your impact on climate change (SO); solid waste (DW); transportation (SO); and renewables (ND).

7. Discussion of Community Energy Plan

a) Public Power Study

Staff reported that no bids were received for the public power study. Staff also reported that EBMUD's public power consultant (R.W. Beck) will have a report in January and will be available to make a presentation to Council. This report may help Berkeley decide how to proceed. Commissioner Siegel warned that we must preface the R.W. Beck presentation with an explanation of how transferable the study will be to Berkeley. Staff also reported on R.W. Beck's preliminary presentation at EBMUD.

b) Alternative Resources Study

Staff received bids and selected a contractor for the alternative resources study. The contractor will present a list of technologies and delivery mechanisms to be considered at a Council study session on November 27. Staff encouraged the Commission to submit ideas for inclusion by November 1. Commissioner Kurzweil suggested consideration of energy storage.

c) November 27 Council Study Session

Staff reported that there is a Council energy study session scheduled for November 27. Staff distributed an outline and asked the Commission to prepare and deliver a report on the energy crisis and major legislation. Commission Bachrach volunteered to coordinate the presentation. Commissioner Kurzweil volunteered to prepare the legislative section. Commissioner Deumling volunteered to research energy conservation impacts and the outlook for the winter and spring. Commissioner Siegel volunteered to research natural gas trends. A detailed outline will be discussed at the next meeting.

d) Green Energy Analysis Referral from Council

Staff reported that the Council has referred a green building initiative to the Commission. The initiative would seek cost-benefit analysis for public and private construction projects and possibly require measures in projects. The Commission recommended relating this program to existing standards, such as Title 24 or LEED. This initiative will be referred to the alternative resources consultant.

8. Report on CESC By-Laws

Commissioner Siegel reported that despite pleas from the Mayor, the City doesn't seem to be making the restructuring of the board a priority. The Commissioners agreed to contact their Councilmembers to press this issue.

9. Report on Public Power Meeting with EBMUD

Covered under item 7.

10. Report on Solar Permitting Process

Staff reported that fees for single and two-family residences have been substantially reduced. Staff is working to see if fees for multi-family and commercial permits can be reduced.

11. Report on Small Commercial Energy Program

Staff reported that Council approved the contract with CESC and CESC has hired a program manager.

12. Sierra Club Pledge Drive

Staff reported that the City participated in a Sierra Club pledge drive to get residents to commit to reducing energy consumption by 20% and urging the Governor to make conservation a priority.

ACTION ITEMS

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Diesel Generators

The Commission discussed the draft report on diesel generators and LBNL's response. The Commission made some changes and voted to send the report to the CEAC (MSC: SO, JS, 7-0).

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Energy Awards Program

Commissioner Deumling presented an outline for the awards program. There were some suggestions and he encouraged the Commission to send him more suggestions. He will make a presentation at the next meeting.

15. Approval of Minutes of August 1

The minutes were amended to correct the spelling of Commissioner Siegel's name in item 7. The corrected minutes were approved (MSC: JK, SO, 4-0-3, RD & DW abstained, FP absent).

16. Items for Next Month's Agenda

Items removed: Green Energy Analysis Referral from Council; Report on Public Power Meeting with EBMUD; Sierra Club Pledge Drive; Discussion and Possible Action on Diesel Generators.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 8:20 PM (MSC: JS, JK, 6-0-1, FP absent).