



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
November 14, 2001

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bachrach at 7:05 PM.

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

Absent: Packard

Staff: Neal De Snoo, Alice LaPierre

2. Public Comments

No comments.

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: The CEAC has not yet taken action on the diesel generator item from the Energy Commission.

Transportation Commission: No report.

Council: No report.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that the City expects an extension of the California LIHEAP program contract from December 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that between May 21 and August 22, County data indicated 17 commercial properties were sold without CECO compliance. Staff sent enforcement letters. Three of these are actually residential properties, one is a vacant lot and four others have started the compliance process.

6. Report on Educational Activities

Commissioner Deumling will follow-up with Commissioner Packard regarding a class schedule and roster.

7. Discussion of Community Energy Plan

a) Public Power Study

Staff reported that the EBMUD study will be available in December and will be presented to Council in January. Staff reported that the San Francisco MUD initiative failed and that the initiative to reorganize the PUC and conduct a public power study was behind by a very small number of votes. Staff reported that there was no reliable study to support the initiatives.

b) Alternative Resources Study

Staff reported on the alternative resources consulting study. Commissioner Williamson raised the issue of bonding for renewables. Staff reported that this will be considered by the consultant. Staff emphasized that the consultant will analyze a host of programs and that they can then be considered side-by-side.

Staff reported that the San Francisco solar bond initiatives applies only to municipal facilities. Staff also reported that the City of Berkeley has incurred debt on projects, but not on the scale of the San Francisco initiatives.

Commissioner Siegel questioned whether the costs and benefit analysis supporting the bonds was solid.

c) November 27 Council Study Session
The Commission and staff reviewed and modified the draft presentation.

8. Report on CESC By-Laws
Staff reported that CESC and City staff prepared a reorganization plan for consideration by the City Attorney's Office.
9. Report on Solar Permitting Process
Staff reported that single family solar permits are being issued on a next-day basis. Staff reported that the Building Department is administratively waiving the 4% permit fees for single-family installations but that this waiver must be supported by an estimated \$53,000 appropriation to provide replacement revenues. These funds are not currently available.
10. Report on Small Commercial Energy Program
Staff reported that the program is scheduled for launch in January.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Energy Awards Program
The Commission discussed the program outline prepared by Commissioner Deumling. Commissioner Deumling will prepare a revised report for action on December 12. The Commission plans to send the item to Council in January.
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Use of Blended Cement
Commissioner Ode distributed materials on this subject. Commissioner Siegel expressed concerns about possible radon offgasing. Commissioner Ode will ask Ernst Wokrell of LBL to address the Commission on the issue and will check on the price of blended cement. Commissioner Siegel will check on the City's use of the product.
13. Discussion And Possible Action On Council Referral For Support Of Clean Distributed Generation Sources

The Commission passed a motion supporting the intent of SB 532 (renewables portfolio standard).

The Berkeley Energy Commission supports SB 532, Renewables Portfolio Standard, in principal. The Commission has concerns about how the legislation will affect existing renewables producers and existing renewables incentives programs. The Commission also notes that the bill will probably impact consumer costs. Nevertheless, the intent of the bill is consistent with City policy. The Commission recommends that the City's lobbyist monitor this bill and report any movement to the Commission. (MSC: JS, SW, 6-0-1, JK absent).
14. Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2001.
The minutes were amended to correct the item 3 to note that the County is "proposing a new composting facility" not "opening" one. The corrected minutes were approved (MSC: JS, RD, 3-0-3, SW and SO abstained, JK absent).
15. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Items 13 and 7.c. were removed. The next meeting will be on December 12.
16. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at about 8:35 PM (MSC: DW, JS, 5-0-1, JK absent).