



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 23, 2002

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bachrach at 6:40 PM.

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

Absent: Ode, Williamson

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: No report.

Transportation Commission: No report.

Council: Staff reported that Council approved the 2002 LIHEAP Contract.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

Staff reported that the City has received a contract for 25% of the LIHEAP program. The balance is expected pending a congressional appropriation.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that the CECO enforcement process is going well.

6. Report on Educational Activities

Staff distributed a draft flyer. The Commission marked it up. Staff will prepare an electronic version for distribution. Advertisements will be run next week. Commissioner Deumling will arrange with the school for an overhead projector.

7. Discussion of Community Energy Plan

a) Public Power Study

Staff reported that the EBMUD Board would consider the R.W. Beck study on February 13. The Council is expected to hear the issue in March

b) Alternative Resources Study

Staff reported that the study is proceeding on schedule and reports may be available at the next meeting.

8. Report on CESC By-Laws

Staff reported that an appeal to the FPPC is underway but may take some time.

9. Report on Small Commercial Energy Program

Staff contracts for auditors and installers are being negotiated. Staff reported that classes at SFSU would help with marketing, advertising and a web page for the project.

10. Discussion of Revenue Bonds for Community Solar Projects

The Commission discussed how the City could issue tax-exempt revenue bonds to create a self-sustaining investment pool for financing renewable energy installations on private properties. Staff reported on bond

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counsel's characterization of the tax-exempt status as very improbable. The Commission concluded that it would be very difficult to operate the fund as a closed revenue loop and the fund would need to be subsidized by the City. Furthermore, the Commission concluded that the primary target in the residential market – homeowners (tenants and landlords will be a very difficult market to penetrate) -- could use home equity loans or cash out refinancing to finance renewables projects. The latter have excellent rates and tax benefits. The Commission suggested that a bond could be issued for projects on municipal sites if the rate would be competitive with alternative sources of capital.

11. Discussion of Proposals Submitted to the CA Public Utilities Commission
Staff reported on the two proposals that the City submitted for consideration by the CA Public Utilities Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Energy Awards Program
The Commission reviewed a flyer. Advertisements will be posted next week and staff will prepare an electronic version for distribution.
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Use of Blended Cement
No discussion.
14. Approval of Minutes of December 12.
The minutes were corrected to note that Commission Packard was not in attendance. The corrected minutes were approved (MSC: JS, FP, 4-0-2, JS & FP abstained).
15. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Election of Officers was added.
16. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM (MSC: JS, SW, 6-0).