



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 22, 2002

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Ode at 6:30 PM.

Present: Bachrach, Deumling, Hultman, Ode, Winkel

Absent: Williamson, Kurzweil, Packard

Staff: Neal De Snoo, Alice LaPierre

Guests: Tom Guarino, Nichol Hopper

2. Public Comments

Reuben Deumling inquired about whether PG&E could provide detailed energy data on a regular basis.

Alice LaPierre noted that it is possible to use less than 60 kwh/month and circulated her home energy bill and her article on conducting a home energy audit.

Commissioner Bachrach announced that she will be moving out of Berkeley and that this will be her last meeting.

Dave Williamson announced that the Ecology Center would be asking Council to consider use of 100% biodiesel for its fleet. The item was added to the next Commission agenda.

Commissioner Ode reported that the Energy Office has won an USEPA Region IX award. The ceremony will be on June 6 and Commissioners are welcome to attend. The nomination was submitted by Commissioners Bachrach and Deumling.

Items 10 and 9 were moved up on the agenda.

10. Discussion of Strategic Planning for CESC

Staff reported that a small group has met to develop a strategic plan for CESC. The group is considering five opportunities including establishment of a regional energy office and expanding services in the small commercial market, CDBG-funded home repair, fee-for-service home repair and solar aggregation. The Commission moved this Item to the Action agenda and passed a motion: Staff should investigate strategic opportunities for CESC and report regularly to the Commission (MSC: RD, SW, 5-0).

9. Discussion of Ordinance Exceeding State Energy Standards for Multi-Family Construction

Following up on a comment from the public, staff reported that the City could reduce the occurrence of electric heat in residential developments by prohibiting permit applicants from trading off space heating efficiency for water heating (or other end use) efficiency. Staff noted that this would increase capital costs and may inhibit the development of residential units, particularly affordable units. Staff suggested that the utility allowances could be adjusted to help amortize these costs. Commissioner Winkel noted that any additional restrictions on affordable housing development in Berkeley could squelch development and suggested that this be considered on a statewide basis. Staff suggested that a voluntary program that would alter utility allowances and provide technical assistance, including life cycle cost analyses.

The Commission recessed at 7 PM for the meeting of the CESC Board of Directors. The Commission reconvened at 7:02 PM.

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

- Solid Waste (NH): Commissioner Hultman suggested that we consider sending the blended cement item to the PW Commission for comment.
- Public Works (SO): No report.
- CEAC (JK): No report.
- Transportation Commission (RD): Commissioner Deumling noted that the Water Transit Authority was on the agenda but has not had much activity.
- Council: Staff reported that the Berkeley Unplugged ceremony will be held on May 28 and Commissioners are welcome to attend. Staff reported that Council passed the Commission's resolution encouraging EBMUD to proceed to a feasibility study. Staff reported that the DEO low-income weatherization contract was approved. Staff reported that about half of the FY 02 Energy Office budget increase has been withdrawn due to lower than expected revenues.

4. Report on Low Income Programs

No report.

5. Report on CECO and RECO

Staff reported that CECO enforcement is continuing and that RECO inspector bids were due today.

6. Discussion of Community Energy Plan

a) Public Power Study

Staff reported that EBMUD will hold a meeting tomorrow at noon. Commissioners are welcome.

b) Alternative Resources Study

Staff reported that the portfolios report is being revised to reflect the new budget.

7. Report on CESC By-Laws

No report.

8. Report on Small Commercial Energy Program

Staff reported that video and radio spots were produced by SFSU.

9. Discussion of Ordinance Exceeding State Energy Standards for Multi-Family Construction

Moved up on the agenda.

10. Discussion of Strategic Planning for CESC

Moved up on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Use of Blended Cement

Staff reported that Public Works staff that work with structural concrete have concerns about requiring blended cement for all applications.

12. Approval of Minutes of March 27, April 11 and April 24

Item 12 on the April 24 minutes were corrected to substitute "Bachrach" for "Ode." The minutes were passed (MSC: RD, DB, 5-0)

13. Items for Next Month's Agenda

Report on biodiesel was added.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM (MSC: RD, SW, 4-0-1, DB abstained).