



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 28, 2004

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Deumling at 6:36 PM.

Present: Deumling, Dickinson, Gillen, Miller, Packard, Winkel

Absent: None

Staff: Neal De Snoo, Alice La Pierre

2. Public Comments and Announcements

Staff announced that the City Manager's Office is seeking a representative from the Commission to serve on an ad hoc working group to advise on the precautionary principle initiative. Commission Miller volunteered to serve as the Commission's representative.

Staff distributed November residential energy consumption data provided by Tom Guarino of PG&E.

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

- Solid Waste (Miller): No report.
- Public Works (Packard): There was a discussion of the proposed UC Hotel/Conference Center.
- CEAC (Gillen): Green Building literature was distributed.
- Transportation Commission (Deumling): The TC continues to discuss an EcoPass for residents.
- Council: Staff reported on the proposed budget reductions and the possible changes to commissions. The Commission asked staff to forward their recommendations and concerns to the City Manager's staff.
 1. The Energy Commission also serves as the Board of Directors of CESC. Although the Commission and staff have tried to sever this relationship, we have been advised by the City Attorney's Office that unless the CA Fair Political Practices Commission changes its policy, the Board will remain a legislative body of the City. Therefore, if there is any change to the makeup of the Energy Commission, special consideration needs to be paid to how the Board is constituted.
 2. Based on the City Manager's report of staff time spent on commissions, the Energy Commission is not a significant burden on City resources. The Commission recommends that the decision to consolidate or eliminate commissions not be subject to a general policy of consolidation but be targeted to resource-intensive commissions.
 3. The Energy Commission is actually a resource, not a liability. Commissioners spend a considerable amount of staff time supporting City initiatives, such as marketing programs and helping with special events.
 4. The EC would prefer to exist as it does and meet on a monthly basis. However, if faced with the prospect of either consolidating or going to a quarterly meeting schedule, the Commission would strongly favor a quarterly meeting schedule.

The Commission recessed at 7:05 for a meeting of the CESC Board of Directors and reconvened at 7:30.

4. Report on Low-Income Programs
Staff reported that the 2000 census resulted in some funding shifts from the Bay Area to the LA basin. These shifts will be limited and phased in. The 2004 LIHEAP contract is expected to be about 5% less than the 2003 contract. Staff also reported that significant budget cuts are under consideration for the low-income materials General Fund budget.
5. Report on CECO
No report.
6. Discussion of RECO Study
Staff reported that it is working with representatives from LBL, CA CEC, PG&E and CESC to revamp RECO. There was a discussion of various strategies. Staff will work on a draft amendment with the peer group and then distribute to the Commission for feedback.
7. Discussion of Public Power Study
Staff reported that the project kick off meeting occurred and went well. Pleasanton, Vallejo, Modesto and Richmond are active participants and Oakland and Emeryville are considering joining.
8. Report on the Landfill Gas Project
Staff reported that the consultants have erratic data on gas production and have recommended well field tests before proceeding. An estimate for those tests has been requested.
9. Energy Conservation Program Marketing
Commissioner Gillen reported that the interagency task force on marketing has decided on a brand name – East Bay Green Neighbors – a logo and a value proposition. Presentations to potential participating boards are being scheduled.
10. Discussion of Educational Activities
 - a) Berkeley Unplugged and High/Low User Study
No report.
 - b) Green Building Exposition
Alice La Pierre requested assistance from commissioners to line up speakers for the event.
11. Report on PUC Programs
No report.

ACTION ITEMS

12. Approval of Minutes of November 19
The minutes of November 19 were adopted (MSC: SW, JM 5-0-1, Packard abstained).
13. Discussion and Possible Action on PG&E/CA PUC Proposed Settlement
No action.
14. Items for Next Month's Agenda
The next meeting will be on January 28.
15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM (MSC: SW, FP, 6-0).