



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 22, 2004

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gillen at 6:38 PM.
Present: Abrams, Gillen, Packard, Rezaee
Absent: Dickinson, Miller
Staff: Neal De Snoo, Alice LaPierre
Guests: Nancy Hoeffler, Davis Baltz, Sid Dietz, Pamela Pachilla

2. Public Comments and Announcements

None.

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): Staff reported that the street lighting standards being considered by PW only affect the style of the fixture, not lamps or wattages.
- CEAC (Gillen): No report.
- Transportation Commission (Rezaee): No report.
- Council: No report.

Items 13 and 14 were moved up on the agenda to before Item 4. They are reported below.

The Commission recessed for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Community Energy Services Corporation at 7:10 and reconvened at 7:30.

4. Report on Low-Income Programs

No report.

5. Report on CECO

No report.

6. Discussion of RECO Study

Staff reported that it has decided to work with an ABAG program for the technical research. The arrangement to have a consultant support our efforts through PG&E and through the City of San Francisco was too cumbersome.

7. Discussion of Public Power Study

Staff and Commissioners Packard and Abrams reported on a meeting with Navigant consulting on the issue of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). The outcome of the initial reports indicated that there might be a minor economic benefit if several cities combine loads and purchase 40% renewable power for customers within their communities.

Sid Dietz warned the Commission of the potential risks, including volatile spot market prices, firming contract prices, financial instability of suppliers during times of volatility and cash reserve requirements to meet competitive interest rates on bonds. He also warned that the assumed renewables prices might be too low.

8. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program
Commissioner Gillen reported that the phone system is working, the MOU has been signed by the City, CESC, GRC and RSEC. Ecology Center may also sign. Staff reported on the Green Neighbors booth at the Solano Stroll and noted that Green Neighbors will be represented at the Bayer employee environmental fair.
9. Discussion of Educational Activities
a) Green Home Exposition and Symposium
Staff reported that the expo will probably be combined with the Bay Festival in 2006 but there will be no Bay Festival in 2005 due to funding cuts and construction at the Marina. The Expo will take place on April 30, 2005 in the Civic Center Park.
b) Berkeley Unplugged and High/Low User Study
No report.
10. Report on PUC Programs
Smart Lights was discussed during the CESC Board meeting.

Staff reported that CYES has completed about 450 homes and is well on its way of completing the 1,500 target.
11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan and Sustainable Business Working Group
Staff reported it is consolidating a proposal to seek funding for the SBWG.

Commissioner Gillen had some questions about the intent of the SBWG branding plan. Staff directed him to speak with Jennifer Cogley.

ACTION ITEMS

12. Discussion and Possible Action on the Precautionary Principle Ordinance
Item 12 was combined with Item 13.
13. Discussion and Possible Action on the Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy
Davis Baltz summarized the Precautionary Principle Ordinance and the Environmental Purchasing Policy, stating that the Precautionary Principle Working Group and staff are seeking the endorsement of the Energy Commission (and other Commissions). The Commission discussed the item but had not had a chance to review the contents in depth. The Commission supported the concept the following motion:
The Energy Commission agrees with the intent and purpose of the draft precautionary principle ordinance and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy as presented to the Commission and recommends that Council adopt such an ordinance and policy. (MSC: AR, FP, 4-0)
14. Approval of Minutes of July 28
The minutes were corrected to add Sid Dietz to the guests. The corrected minutes were approved (MSC: JA, FP, 3-0-1, AR abstained).
14. Items for Next Month's Agenda
The precautionary principle ordinance and environmentally preferable purchasing policy were deleted. The next meeting will be on October 27. The November and December meeting will be combined and held on December 8.
15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM (MSC: AR, FP, 4-0).