



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2005

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gillen at 6:31 PM.

Present: Abrams, Gillen, Miller, Rezaee, Sharpe

Absent: none

Staff: Neal De Snoo

Guests: Nancy Hoeffler

2. Public Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Gillen welcomed Commissioner Sharpe to the Commission. Commissioner Sharpe introduced himself and noted that he has extensive experience in engineering and public administration and has previously staffed the development of the original Berkeley residential energy conservation ordinance.

Tom Kelly spoke on behalf of KyotoUSA. He stated the purpose of KyotoUSA (handout) and noted that the US is one of only 3 industrialized nations that has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol. He noted that KyotoUSA was instrumental in getting the City of Berkeley to endorse US ratification of the protocol earlier this month. He urged the Commission to pursue community choice aggregation (CCA). He noted stated the need to proceed quickly to file an implementation plan to avoid CCA "exit fees" for PG&E's procurement.

Jane Kelly announced that KyotoUSA will sponsor a press conference entitled "Berkeley's Valentine to the Planet" on February 14, from 12-2 PM in the Civic Center Park.

Sue Supriano also urged the Commission to pursue CCA in response to the inevitable decline in production of oil (i.e., "peak energy") that will have momentous implications. She also noted the need to file an implementation plan to avoid CCA exit fees.

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 (Abrams): No report.
- CEAC (Gillen): No report.
- Transportation Commission (Rezaee): No report.
- Council: No report.

Items 11 and 7 were moved up on the agenda to accommodate the public audience.

11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan and Sustainable Business Working Group (SBWG)

Staff announced that there are various activities occurring through the SBWG, one of which is the development of a clean energy bond. The City is working with a group of finance professionals to develop a clean energy bond on the

order of \$50-100 million to fund combined heat and power, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Berkeley and Oakland.

7. Discussion of Public Power Study

Staff announced that a final CCA feasibility study is due in February and may be presented to Council at a workshop in April. Thereafter, Council will need to decide whether or not and how to fund an implementation plan and regulatory intervention. The cost of these activities is dependent upon how many other cities join the effort.

The Commission requested that staff prepare a preliminary report to be distributed as soon as possible.

In response to the budgetary constraints, members of the public suggested that private grants or loans might be considered if the City is not able to fund the next phase of the project.

The Commission recessed at 7:50 for a meeting of the Board of Directors of CESC and reconvened at 8:25.

4. Report on Low-Income Programs

Staff announced that the LIHEAP contract has been received and is slightly higher than last year's contract.

Staff noted that it has filed a CDBG application for some of the weatherization activities that are currently funded through the general fund. If awarded, this will have no impact on the CDBG allocations since an equal amount of other Housing expenses currently in the CDBG program will be shifted to the General Fund.

5. Report on CECO

No report.

6. Discussion of RECO Study

Staff reported that grant-funded consultants have begun work on the amendment and a document may be available in April for Commission review.

7. Discussion of Public Power Study

Moved to before item 4.

8. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program

Commissioner Gillen reported that Oakland Tribune ads have not been very productive. The group will be focusing its outreach activities on direct mail and tabling events.

9. Discussion of Educational Activities

- a) Green Home Exposition and Symposium
Staff distributed an outline for the program, to be held on April 30.
- b) Berkeley Unplugged and High/Low User Study
No response has been received from PG&E regarding this proposal.

10. Report on PUC Programs

Staff reported that the CYES program is about 20% behind its goals but is confident that this will be made up before the end of the year.

11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan and Sustainable Business Working Group (SBWG)

Moved to before item 4.

12. Discussion of Commission Vacancies

Staff reported that it prepared a list of vacancies and Housing Director Stephen Barton sent a message to those Councilmembers urging that they make appointments.

ACTION ITEMS

13. Approval of Minutes of December 8

The minutes were approved (MSC: JM, AR, 4-0-1, Sharpe abstained).

14. Items for Next Month's Agenda

The next meeting will be held on February 23. Election of Officers was added to the agenda.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM (MSC: JM, RS, 5-0).