



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2005

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gillen at 6:31 PM.
Present: Abrams, Grimes, Hanson, Oursler, Gillen, Rezaee
Absent: Miller, Bergen (excused leave of absence)
Staff: Neal De Snoo, Alice La Pierre
Guests: Don Dame, Alan Hanger, Scott Wentworth

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 (Abrams): No report.
- CEAC (Gillen): No report.
- Transportation Commission (Rezaee): No report.
- Council: Staff reported that Council approved a contract to develop a clean energy fund. Staff reported that Council is considering recommendations to reduce the Commission meeting schedule to six or nine meetings per year with the option of calling additional meetings if necessary. Commissioner Grimes reported that there is also some discussion of merging the Energy Commission and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC). The Commission moved this item to the Action and passed the following motion (MSC: RG, AR, 6-0)
 - The Energy Commission has no objection to meeting nine times per year provided it can call additional special meetings as needed. The Commission recommends that Council not merge the Community Environmental Advisory Commission and the Energy Commission since they deal with very different issues.

4. Report on Low-Income Programs

Staff reported that the funding for the Superweatherization program would probably be switched from the General Fund to CDBG funds.

5. Report on CECO

No report.

6. Discussion of RECO Study

No report.

7. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program

Commissioner Gillen reported that a revised memorandum of understanding is being circulated for signature by the parties. A direct mail piece and common phone line are being planned.

8. Discussion of Educational Activities

Staff reported on the results of the Green Expo. The collaboration between City departments and non-profit organizations is working well, and that the pollution prevention activities at the event were very successful. More than 6,700 pounds of electronic waste was captured and diverted from landfill; 1/4 pound of mercury was collected; nearly one thousand incandescent bulbs were exchanged for compact fluorescent lamps. The resulting difference in wattage was enough to power forty homes annually. Five hundred forty-one pounds of batteries were collected, and 25 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected. Staff observed that event participants were genuinely glad to have the opportunity to properly dispose of their household hazardous

wastes.

With the exception of paying a fee for the battery disposal, the costs of capturing and either reusing or disposing of the remainder of these household wastes is borne by the non-profit agencies through their grants and other funding sources. The City of Berkeley is responsible for hosting and marketing the event.

In February 2006, California's Universal Waste Rule will go into effect, requiring all households and small businesses to properly dispose of non-automotive batteries, and mercury-containing products, including fluorescent lighting. A separate bill, Senate Bill SB 20 will require proper disposal of electronic waste.

Staff has submitted a grant proposal to the EPA for pollution prevention activities at the 2006 Green Home EXPO, which would pay for increased marketing venues, some staff time, and other costs associated with pollution prevention activities. A similar collection is being coordinated for the Solano Stroll in the fall, giving residents another annual opportunity to properly dispose of these materials.

9. Report on PUC Programs

Staff reported that PG&E is meeting next week to evaluate the partnership proposals.

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

Staff reported that a working group has been established with UCB and the real estate community to try to establish a market for green commercial buildings that will attract green businesses.

Staff reported that the Green Gathering held at the Gaia Building was well attended.

ACTION ITEMS

11. Approval of Minutes of April 27

The minutes were corrected to note that Jerry Miller served as chair. The corrected minutes were approved (MSC: RG, GA, 6-0).

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Staff presented a revised budget for the business plan and distributed comments from Sean Randolph of the Bay Area Economic Forum and a response from Navigant.

Staff reported that it is seeking a decision from the Commission so that Council can receive its recommendation by July 12. A delay could result in a Council decision being deferred until September, which may result in an increase in the amount of exit fees the CCA may be liable for.

Don Dame of the Northern California Power Agency spoke to the Commission. The NCPA is a non-profit agency established in 1968 that serves 18 members, including San Jose, Alameda and the Port of Oakland. He noted that it would be very difficult to make a CCA succeed because of the complexity of the issues and the potential problems that may occur. He noted that a small scale CCA would be extremely difficult and that an aggregation with several cities would be preferable. He cited examples of how ABAG and Lassen had found themselves in very difficult financial situations for various reasons. He noted that it is preferable to have staff assume responsibilities rather than delegating to consultants but noted that a minimum CCA size for self-staffing is about 1000 MW. He stated that the City should not form a CCA for the economic gains that may be hard to realize but that the goal of increasing renewables was a good policy objective. He urged a disciplined approach to buying and minimizing exposure. NCPA could provide power planning, procurement, development, and schedule coordination services. They are not organized to offer retail services. NCPA minimum membership fees are \$15,000, which provides access to NCAP staff at cost. Don stated that NCAP could help develop and portfolio or review a proposed portfolio.

Alan Hanger of Alameda Telecom also spoke to the Commission and distributed a set of comments.

The Commission decided to schedule a special session on June 7 to consider a resolution on the issue.

14. Items for Next Month's Agenda

No changes to the Regular meeting agenda.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM (MSC: AO, AR, 6-0).