



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2005

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gillen at 6:32 PM.
Present: Abrams, Bergen, Gillen, Grimes, Hanson, Miller, Paolini, Rezaee
Absent: Oursler
Staff: Neal De Snoo
Guests: Brooke Owyang

2. Public Comments and Announcements

Harvey Sherback urged the City to convene a meeting of real estate professionals and solar contractors to develop a plan to have real estate firms lease roofs and install PV systems.

Brooke Owyang stated that Anna Oursler is in Tanzania and that Brooke will be named as her permanent replacement. Brooke also introduced Dupack and Frank, students who are working on the energy component of a sustainability plan for the community. They will be contacting commissioners and staff for interviews.

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

- Solid Waste (Miller): Staff reported that a draft Solid Waste Plan is being discussed at the Commission.
- Public Works (Abrams): No report.
- CEAC (Gillen): No report.
- Transportation Commission (Rezaee): Commissioner Rezaee reported that the downtown plan is the major topic of discussion.
- Council: Staff reported that Council has approved participation in the Chicago Climate Exchange (see item 11).

4. Report on Low-Income Programs

Staff reported that the City has received an additional \$16,000 from Petroleum Violation Escrow Account funds (Federal grant) for weatherization activities.

Staff also reported that it might serve as a contractor to provide low-income weatherization services under PG&E's Energy Partners program.

5. Report on CECO

Nancy Hoeffler reported that there is growing interest in establishing energy ordinances and that ABAG may host a meeting on the subject in November.

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

6. Discussion of RECO Study

Staff presented a revised ranking of potential RECO measures, noting that some of the data need to be corrected. Staff noted that other than appliance measures, the list is not that much more stringent than the existing RECO requirements. Staff encouraged commissioners to submit comments by October 4.

The Commission recommended that furnaces with pilots be converted or replaced with pilotless units and that all electric systems be replaced with natural gas systems.

Nancy Hoeffler suggested that the ordinance include green building measures.

7. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program
Commissioner Gillen reported that visitation at the Green Neighbors table at the Solano Stroll was low compared to tables that had give-aways (CFLs, oil recycling kits, etc).
8. Discussion of Educational Activities
Staff distributed a handout from Alice La Pierre that described the success of recent events and outlined plans for the 2006 Green Home Expo.
9. Report on PUC Programs
Staff reported that the CPUC has approved PG&E's filing for 2006-2008 programs, which includes funding for the East Bay Energy Partnership. The details of the EBEP contract will be worked out this fall.
10. Report on Community Choice Aggregation
Staff reported it has submitted a \$4,000 amendment to the Navigant contract for Council authorization. The amendment will allow Navigant to update the pro forma based on the results of the peer review. Pending the updated peer review, Council may be asked to approve another amendment to prepare a business plan. The Commission expressed concerns about Navigant's objectivity and ability to conduct the business plan. Staff agreed that the feasibility study was not prepared as professionally as it should have been. Staff informed the Commission that it intends to imbed an independent peer review process into the scope of work for the business plan. Staff reported that the only other options are to budget up to \$500,000 to cover the matches that Navigant has secured to defray the costs of the project or cancel the project.

It is planned that the Commission will see the results of the updated pro forma at its November December meeting and will consider a decision regarding proceeding with the business plan at that time.
11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan, Chicago Climate Exchange and Mayor's Sustainable Business Working Group
Staff reported that Council approved the City's participation in the Chicago Climate Exchange.

ACTION ITEMS

12. Approval of Minutes of July 27
The minutes were approved (MSC: R. Grimes, JM, 7-0-1, RA abstained).
13. Discussion and Possible Action on Precautionary Principle Ordinance (item to be delivered)
No report.
14. Discussion and Possible Action on Vehicle License Fee Initiative
Commissioner Gillen reported that the Union of Concerned Scientists is taking up this issue and there is no need for Commission action on the subject.
15. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Item 13 was deleted.
16. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM (MSC: JM, R. Grimes, 8-0).