



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 2006

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Grimes at 6:37 PM.
Present: Abrams, Bergen, Grimes, Hansen, Mertishaw, Miller, Owyang, Paolini
Absent: Rezaee
Staff: Neal De Snoo

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 (Grimes): Commissioner Grimes reported that the CEAC is addressing LBL site clean up issues and tritium issues.
- Transportation Commission (Rezaee): No report.
- Council: No report.

4. Report on Low-Income Programs

No report.

5. Report on CECO

No report.

6. Discussion of RECO Study

Staff reported that it plans to link administration of the proposed RECO amendment to the proposed sewer lateral ordinance (which has similar triggers) that is expected to be passed by Council. A City team is now developing the information technology systems to administer and enforce the sewer lateral ordinance. The systems should be able to incorporate the new RECO ordinance.

Staff distributed and reviewed a draft flow chart. Some corrections/edits were made.

Staff will urge the RECO consultants (paid by PG&E funds) to complete the technical items so that the draft may be circulated to stakeholders.

7. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program

Commissioner Owyang reported that Green Neighbors offered to market energy-related programs provided by organizations that attended the recent Mayor's Sustainability Summit.

The Commission asked that a sample of the Green Neighbors mailing be distributed.

8. Report on Community Choice Aggregation

This item was moved to the Action Agenda (MSC: RG, GA, 8-0).

Staff reported on the Council workshop and subsequent action. Council approved the Phase II study and requested that staff report back in May with language for a November 2006 advisory ballot initiative.

Staff reported that it met with Commissioners Abrams and Bergen and concluded that a 2006 initiative was not advisable because a) there would be no specific information available for the ballot; b) there is insufficient time to launch an effective outreach and information program; and c) ballot language that provided general criteria without specific information would need to be too restrictive to get a positive vote.

The Commission decided to initiate a public outreach campaign by dedicating its next meeting to a public workshop on CCA. Commissioners Bergen, Miller and Mertishaw will work with staff to develop the agenda and invitation. All Commissioners are encouraged to send email addresses of invitees to staff. Invitees would include, but not be limited to the Council of Neighborhood Associations, League of Women Voters, Mayor's Sustainability Summit, Mayors' Sustainability Working Group, senior center mailing lists, the Downtown Berkeley Association, the Chamber of Commerce and other commissions.

The Commission passed the following motion: The Berkeley Energy Commission recommends that if the Phase II study provides a positive result, a CCA ballot initiative be conducted at the next general election following the November 2006 election (currently scheduled for November 2008). The Commission recommends against conducted a November 2006 ballot initiative for the following reasons: a) there would be no specific information available for the ballot; b) there is insufficient time to launch an effective outreach and information program; and c) ballot language that provided general criteria without specific information would need to be too restrictive to get a positive vote. (MSC: TH, JB, 8-0)

9. Discussion of Educational Activities

Staff reminded the Commission to attend the Green Home Expo and Energy Symposium to be held on April 29.

10. Report on PUC Programs

Staff reported that PG&E stated its intent to contract with the partnership by June 1 and has added a new residential program to the partnership.

11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan, Chicago Climate Exchange and Mayor's Sustainable Business Working Group

Commissioner Owyang reported on the Mayor's Sustainability Summit planning meeting. She reported that the participants focused on establishing targets for a campaign, with a focus on residential markets. She reported that ICLEI will be producing an countywide GHG inventory.

12. Discussion of Net Metering Tariffs

Postponed until May.

ACTION ITEMS

13. Approval of Minutes of January 25
No action (agenda package was missing page two of the minutes).

14. Items for Next Month's Agenda
The April agenda will be reduced to essential business and devoted to a CCA workshop.
Commissioner Mertishaw will invite a speaker on peak oil for the May meeting.

15. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM (MSC: RG, SM, 8-0).

