



Berkeley Energy Commission

BERKELEY ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 24, 2006

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Grimes at 6:33 PM.
Present: Abrams, Grimes, Hansen, Murtishaw, Owyang, Paolini
Absent: Bergen (leave of absence), Miller (leave of absence), 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): No report.
 - Transportation Commission (Rezaee): No report.
 - Council: Staff reported that Council voted to holdover the ballot initiative on CCA until after the Navigant CCA study is available. This leaves open the possibility that the issue can be presented at a special election or a 2008 general election. Council will be considering the Mayor's proposal to include a greenhouse gas initiative on the November 2006 ballot.
4. Report on Low-Income Programs
Staff reported that the State has doubled the annual LIHEAP contract. Weatherization and bill payment assistance services to low-income households will be increased accordingly.
5. Report on CECO
No report.
6. Discussion of RECO Study
No report.
7. Green Neighbors – Energy Conservation Marketing Program
No report.
8. Report on Community Choice Aggregation and Discussion of Possible Process for the Commission to Use Guide and Public Input and Discussion
The Commission discussed its role in the CCA decision process. The Commission decided to focus its efforts on a public dialogue of the policy issues and referring technical issues to the appropriate experts.

The Commission decided to hold a workshop on CCA governance issues at its July meeting and possibly again at its September meeting. Commissioner Abrams will work with staff to assemble a panel of speakers. Commissioner Murtishaw will work with Commissioner Owyang to develop a simply handout on CCA. Commissioner Paolini will develop a flow chart of the CCA decision process.
9. Discussion of Educational Activities Including Use of E-mail, including Broadcasting addresses to Large Lists
Commissioner Hansen objected to the distribution of recipients' names with the notice of the last workshop. Staff reported that it intended to suppress the list but made a mistake.
10. Report on PUC Programs
No report.

11. Discussion of Climate Change Plan and Mayor's Sustainable Business Working Group
Commissioner Owyang and staff reported that the Mayor is hosting breakfast meetings on GHG issues and to help plan a GHG summit. The summit was originally planned for the fall but may be rescheduled for the spring. If it is conducted in the spring, it may be possible to organize it in conjunction with the US sustainability summit. Furthermore, ICLEI's inventory and the CCA plan will be available in the spring.
12. Presentation on Peak Oil and Biofuels by David Fridley
David Fridley, a staff Scientist with LBL and a member of San Francisco Oil Awareness made a presentation on biofuels. He provided some background on peak oil and stated that, given the imminent decline in oil production, we need to limit our energy use to amount that can be produced from the annual flow of solar energy (e.g., PV, wind, hydro, biofuels, etc.). His presentation indicated that the biofuels, and ethanol in particular, have a low energy return compared to oil and will cause serious declines in soil nutrients, straining food production.
13. Presentation on Wind Potential Assessment for Santa Barbara County by Daniel Prull
Daniel Prull, a UC graduate student with the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, presented the results of a wind power assessment for Santa Barbara County. The study concluded the technical potential for utility scale wind generation was 300 gWh, enough to power 28,000 homes. He stated that the UC could produce a similar study for areas where Berkeley might wish to develop wind farms.

ACTION ITEMS

14. Approval of Minutes of April 26
Commissioner Murtishaw's name was corrected. The corrected minutes were adopted (MSC: JP, BO, 5-0-1, SM abstained).
15. Items for Next Month's Agenda
Presentation on Peak Oil and Biofuels and Presentation on Wind Potential Assessment for Santa Barbara County were deleted. Discussion and Possible Action on AB 32 and Discussion of PG&E's Climate Neutral Tariff were added.
16. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM (MSC: GA, SM, 6-0).

