



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 6, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue**

**Roll Call:** 7:03 p.m.

**Present:** Commissioners Alward, Campbell, Holland, Perry, Piercy, St. John, Shumer

**Absent:** Commissioner Broderick

**Vacant:** Councilmember Shirek's appointee

**Comments from the Public:**

Sharon Hudson, 2501 Benvenue #21, spoke in favor of extending the construction no-parking notice to 72 hours.

David Baker, 2645-1/2 Parker Street, spoke in favor of extending the construction no-parking notice to 72 hours.

**Announcements:**

1. A Budget Workshop was held for Commissioners on May 15, 2002.
2. The July meeting will be changed to July 11, 2002, due to the national holiday.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of May 2, 2002 were approved as submitted (MSC Perry/Alward) with the stipulation that all future minutes should include "Vacancies" in the Roll Call section.

**ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST**

To request meeting materials in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, real-time captioning or other accommodation for the meeting, call 981-6406 (voice) or 981-6903 (TDD) as soon as possible. Providing at least five (working) days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

June 6, 2002

**Action Items:**

**1. Proposed Council resolution on biodiesel usage in City fleet vehicles:** A presentation was made by Dave Williamson, Operations Manager of the Ecology Center, which has already converted all of its vehicles to 100% biodiesel, with positive results. Bill Ivie, Public Works Fleet Manager, indicated that City vehicles have been on a 20% biodiesel mixture since September 2001. In addition to the many positives, the downsides were noted as follows: (1) that it does not reduce “NOX” emissions, (2) the price per gallon is from \$1.75 to \$2.33, compared to \$1.00 that the City currently pays for diesel, and (3) that fuel consumption is increased, such that a significant increase in overall cost would result. It was noted that the School District (BUSD) purchases its diesel fuel from the City and would also be subjected to the increased costs. The Commission recognizes that it is too late to adjust the rates reimbursed by individual departments for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2003.

The following motion was passed (MSC Shumer/Holland -- Broderick absent)) to be forwarded to the City Council:

Public Works Commission strongly supports in principle switching to bio-diesel fuel as soon as practicable. However, we would bring to the Council’s attention that there will be an added cost for fuel of several hundred thousand dollars per year to switch the City’s whole diesel fleet according to Public Works Department’s current estimate.

This will affect other city departments, the Berkeley Unified School District and the Community Conservation Center, who fuel their vehicles at Public Works facilities, and so their costs will also rise when we fully switch.

We, therefore, urge you to support this policy initiative to authorize a study by the City Manager’s Office of actual costs and to locate funds within the City’s budget to fund this project.

**2. Discussion and possible action regarding outstanding Council requests concerning:**

**A. Street sweeping:** Since there has been no analysis or evaluation of the past public meetings, the Chair indicated that he will contact the Public Works Director to be able to finish up this referral. To do so, the past relevant documentation needs to be gathered and reviewed again to analyze it and make recommendations.

**B. Undergrounding Master Plan:** This effort is ongoing. The subcommittee is in the process currently of working with staff to develop criteria which will then be used select the priority streets.

**C. Joint Commission review of the Sewer Fund and Program:** A draft of this report was handed out, and it was noted that works remains to be done to distinguish work measures from

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

June 6, 2002

performance measures.

**3. Discussion and possible action regarding relevant November ballot issues, including street lighting/pedestrian safety and possibly other issues:** It was moved (MSC Campbell/Perry -- Alward, Broderick absent) to take no action at this meeting regarding ballot measures.

**4. Continued discussion and possible action regarding advance notice for construction tow-away zones:** A motion was passed (MSC Campbell/St. John – Alward, Broderick absent) that the Commission supports the concept of extending the advance notice for construction tow-away zones from 24 hours to 72 hours.

**5. Continued discussion and possible action regarding impacts on infrastructure due to budget issues, including new Measure B allocations and General Fund reductions:** The Commission took no action but expressed a general concern for any unfunded programs that may result. **CIP**

**Information Items:**

**1. Continued discussion on performance measure development:** There was no new information available, and no discussion of this item took place.

**Subcommittee Reports:** There were no subcommittee reports.

**Adjournment:** 9:30 p.m.