



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, September 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Broderick, Dacey, Holland, Perry, Piercy, Shumer, St. John

Absent: Commissioner Campbell

Vacant: Councilmember Shirek's appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Long-time City employee, most recently with the Public Works Department, Lee Hightower, passed away recently.
2. City Manager Weldon Rucker announced his retirement effective November 1, 2003.
3. Commissioner Broderick reminded other commissioners to submit to her their ideas for contents of the commission binder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 10, 2003

Information Item #1: 1st sentence: change "September" to "July." 2nd sentence: change "October" to "September."

The amended minutes were approved (MSC Broderick/Shumer).

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

September 4, 2003

STAFF PRESENTATION : Storm Water System Series, Part 5* (Jensen)

Treatment Devices: A wide variety of stormwater treatment devices was described, which may be used at different locations in the system. A “vortex” type device is currently being tested by the City in the Public Safety parking lot. Whereas the new “C3 requirements” are in effect now, actual enforcement commences in January 2005. Due to the expense of these measures, implementation would be phased in over several years. Treatment facilities at the City’s five outfalls may eventually be required. Each would require a vault on the order of 25’ x 30’ and would cost \$130,000 in today’s dollars.

Budget Update: The fee presently collects \$1,900,000/year. Originally, \$1,500,000 was targeted to go to capital improvements; it has been gradually whittled down to nothing (this year). Staff has determined that \$1,700,000 is currently needed each year just to keep up with repairing the failing system. A 200 – 300% increase in the fee, or an increase from \$50 to \$150 per residential parcel, is needed.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commission support for one of Berkeley's Alternative Energy Resources

Portfolios* (Utilities Subcommittee): After extended discussion, the following motion was passed by a 5 – 2 vote (Shumer/Dacey; Opposed: Perry, Piercy):

The Public Works Commission supports the revised Alternative Energy Resource Portfolio 3. We also recognize that the costs in the Revised Portfolio 3 are very high; therefore, we expect implementation of this plan will take many years and should be considered with budgetary limitations for infrastructure in mind. We do not want to see any monies shifted away from maintaining and updating infrastructure.

In addition, all projects should refer to this policy during their planning stage.

2. Commission response to draft of San Pablo Avenue Public Improvements Plan*

(Right of Way Subcommittee): After discussion, the attached memorandum was adopted as submitted (MSC Piercy/Perry). A motion was also passed to authorize Chair St. John to draft a statement to the City Council in general support of the Plan and to suggest to City Council the need for early involvement of the City Engineer in proposed City Plans, in particular those involving consultants (MSC Piercy/Holland). This statement will be placed to the next commission agenda for action.

The remainder of the agenda is carried over to the next regular commission meeting on October 2, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 P.M.