



Public Works Commission

**Special Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 29, 2004**

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Edwards

Vacant: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - TRENDS AND PRIORITIES:**

Secretary Egeberg provided the following results of the Public Works Department's strategic planning as input to the Commission's work programming:

Industry Trends

- Tighter regulations and enforcement of Clean Water Act, affecting both storm water drainage and sanitary sewer collection
- Emphasis on alternative transportation modes, fuels and environmentally efficient buildings and facilities
- Improved technologies, from planning/engineering tools like GPS, GIS, other computer-based products, to advanced construction techniques such as trenchless technologies and improvements equipment

Berkeley Trends

- Increase in private and quasi-private development, yielding higher demands for service, increased revenue through mitigations, and public disruption of construction impacts
- Population Shifts
  - Changing demands on services
  - Effects on property tax revenues
- Undergrounding of utilities (unknown proportions - from minimal to large impacts)
- Shifting priorities from sanitary to storm water capital improvements (without any

- significant increase in combined funding for both programs)
- Creek Identification and Regulation
- Departmental Reorganizations
  - Transportation/Public Works
  - Environmental Shift in Emphasis

Programs for Possible Commission Involvement

- Private Sewer Laterals (continuing)
- Litter during Recycling (continuing)
- GIS-based Maintenance Management
- Construction Impacts
- Consistent Street Lighting Standards
- Funding for public infrastructure improvements
  - Shifting from sanitary to storm drainage and creeks
  - Balancing pavement management versus traffic calming and streetscape
  - Increasing mitigation/permit revenue from development projects
- Council Requests and Public Policy Priorities
  - Street Sweeping (cleaning)
  - Rule 20A utility undergrounding
  - Revenue from University of California
  - Creeks

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION - DISCUSSION OF PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMISSION 2005 WORKPLAN:**

The Commission deliberated on the Department's suggestions and raised various points for clarification. The major addition brought up was to emphasize and specifically identify culverts as a primary concern, separately from other creeks issues. Additionally, the relatively new Commissioners indicated a need for background information, particularly budgetary, such as the splits between operations and maintenance funding versus capital improvement budgets. The Secretary was directed to proceed with making copies of the recently developed Commissioner Binder which should aid considerably in this regard. Implications of demographics and the General Plan should also be considered.

The following areas were identified as priorities for the Commission, all under the common heading of Surface Water/Waste Water Management (Quality/Quantity):

- Clean Water Act Impacts
- Creeks Management
- Street Sweeping
- Culverts
- Sewer Laterals
- Impervious Surfaces

These areas will be further developed as an agenda item at the next Commission Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:50 p.m.