



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2005**  
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:07 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Dacey, Edwards, Holland, Jackson, Ongerth, Prevo, Shumer

Absent: Commissioner St. John

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kem Loong, supervisor of the Clean City program in the Public Works Streets & Utility Division, spoke on Information Item #1 below, "The possible scenario of relocating certain services to the Transfer Station." He pointed out that there would be significant relocation impacts that he has not had the chance to identify. He handed out a written statement, to be made part of the record, and offered to meet or discuss as desired. Chair Shumer indicated that this would be delegated to Commissioner Dacey to follow up.

**CHAIR REPORT**

With respect to attachment #7 in this agenda packet, the West Berkeley Project Area Committee will be invited to share its ideas about bicycle and pedestrian path links in West Berkeley with this commission at the next meeting.

**STAFF REPORT**

**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.

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

April 7, 2005

The Secretary explained that a revised agenda for tonight's meeting was sent out and posted last Monday, with two attachments, and extra copies are now available. The final work plan and budget for the Creeks Task Force is also being handed out.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no further announcements.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the March 3, 2005 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted (MSC Holland/Dacey with a vote of 7-0-0, Edwards arriving late).

**STAFF PRESENTATION:** Storm Drainage System

Staff engineer Lorin Jensen described on a map the extent of the different drainage basins and watersheds in Berkeley and pointed out both the creeks and the engineered storm drainage system. He explained that there are both open creeks and culverted creeks, which by the current ordinance are culverts that are in the original creek bed. Then there are other culverts that are not creeks and are part of the engineered drainage system. He explained that prior to 1928 permits were not required, which is when most were built, so there are few reliable records of who built them. He also explained that property owners, including the City of Berkeley, are allowed by law to drain into creeks. Finally, it was pointed out that, of the existing clean storm water fee, \$1,500,000 annually was targeted for capital improvements and repairs to the system, but that has been whittled down to a zero budget for three years running now. Current estimates are \$1,700,000 a year to maintain, repair and replace the present system.

**ACTION ITEMS** (Matters for discussion and possible action)

1. **Sanitary Sewer System Study:** Secretary Egeberg explained that the City Manager felt that his report accompanying the PWC report fully answered the question being requested of the Council to refer to him, so there was no need for either report to go to Council after all. The commission recalled, however, that the Council requested this report after receiving the staff report in December 2004. After further discussion, the commission decided that it would like more specific detail on the referenced actuarial study on workers compensation rates. It was moved (MSC Holland/Dacey with a vote of 8-0-0) that the Secretary would request that a copy of the full study from Bickmore Risk Services be provided to a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Jackson and Dacey.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. **Possible Scenario of Relocating Certain Services to the Transfer Station:** After the discussion that took place during the Public Comment phase, the Secretary pointed out that the next step will be that the Director will hold a meeting with all affected parties, including employees and their unions, in the next month or so.

2. **Financial Status of Street Light Assessment Costs:** Secretary Egeberg reported that PG&E recently notified the City that it has completed a new field inventory of all street lights in Berkeley and noted that there were significantly more than thought previously,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

April 7, 2005

and as a result, the City owed on the order of \$200,000/ year more for power consumption. The City is now engaged in completing its own GIS-based inventory for comparison.

**3. Council Tour of Proposed Foothill Bridge Site on April 11, 2005:** The Council tour (special meeting) will be held at 10:30 a.m. on April 11, 2005, then further discussion is on the regular meeting agenda for April 12, 2005, with a decision scheduled at the regular Council meeting on April 19, 2005. It was noted that the full PWC report is included on the April 12 agenda.

**4. Draft Work Plan for the Creeks Task Force:** Commissioner Holland (in Commissioner St. John's absence) gave a brief oral summary of the final work plan and budget that was handed out.

**5. Budget Update:** The Public Works Department has just turned in its final budget submittal to the City Manager. Since that office has not yet approved it, it is premature to report further at this time.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

1. Status of Public Works Capital Streets Budget (Director Rene Cardinaux)
2. Staff Presentations
  - a. Status of Usage of Biodiesel Fuel in City Fleet (Secretary Egeberg)
  - b. Sanitary Sewer System
  - c. Pavement Management System (PMS) and Five Year Plan
  - d. Environmental Issues
3. Issues Being Deferred for Now
  - a. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
  - b. Recommendation regarding Street Cleaning Program
  - c. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
4. Reports from Liaisons to Other Commissions

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:00 p.m.