



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
Minutes  
Thursday, May 4, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 pm

Present: Commissioners Alward, Edwards, Holland, Prevo, St. John, Wolfe

Absent: Commissioners Jackson, Shumer

Vacant: Mayor Bates' Appointee

**PUBLIC ATTENDING:** 4

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Ringewald expressed appreciation regarding a recent article about storm drains.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 6, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted (MSC Wolfe/St. John with a vote of 5-0-0, Edwards arriving late).

**CHAIR REPORT:** Commissioner Holland was elected Chair and Commissioner Shumer Vice Chair (MSC St. John/Alward with a vote of 5-0-1, Holland abstaining).

**STAFF REPORT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioners received calls from the media regarding newly purchased trucks.

At its last meeting, the Council received a staff presentation on the state of the storm drainage system which commissioners can review on the web.

**PRESENTATION:** Danny Akagi of the Engineering staff gave a presentation on watershed management and impervious surface abatement in the City's Storm Water NPDES Permit. The presentation provided commissioners an overview of their ongoing discussion of stormwater issues.

**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.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Recommendations on Street Sweeping Program:** Commissioner Holland handed out a list of possible edits to the draft Council report in the packet. The changes were accepted as discussed, and Commissioner Wolfe will prepare a revised final version which she will email to staff for the next meeting. Additionally, the amended list of streets to opt in, recently received from operations staff, will be reviewed one more time by the subcommittee, with questions to be clarified by staff. The item is held over to next meeting for final review in June.
2. **Subcommittee Report on Private Sewer Lateral Repairs:** Subcommittee will meet and discuss financial considerations and program expansion for next meeting in June.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. **Watershed Management Issues: Effects of Disconnecting Non-Conforming Storm Water Connections to Sanitary Sewer:** Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 17.06, contained in packet, was observed to provide clear authority to enforce the removal of storm water connections from the sanitary sewer. It was noted that this has not been consistently or frequently enforced to date but will be done under the recently-adopted Private Lateral Program. Staff described methods to retain and disperse runoff on site (private property) as being preferable to connecting to the public drainage system, from both water quality and runoff quantity perspectives.
2. **Creeks Task Force Status Report:** Commissioner St. John distributed the final task force recommendations, noting that minor changes to the definition of a creek are included. She noted the schedule of events up to the Council presentation and the possibility of extending the life of the Task Force.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

1. Next meeting: Include -
  - a. Staff Presentation on 1994 Storm Drainage Master Plan and update
  - b. Streetsweeping recommendations (held over)
  - c. Report on Private Sewer Laterals (held over)
2. Future Meetings: Add -
  - a. Downtown BART Plaza
  - b. Pedestrian Plan
  - c. Santa Fe Right-of-way
  - d. Presentation by Gil Dong, Fire Department Emergency Coordinator
  - e. Report on 2005 Legal Claims for Flood Losses
  - f. Staff Presentations or deferred issues
    - a. Environmental Issues
    - b. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
    - c. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:07 p.m.