



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

**Thursday, May 3, 2007**

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

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

Present: Commissioners Alward, Francis, Holland, Nelson, Prevo, Shumer, St. John, Wolfe

Absent: None

Vacant: Councilmember Maio's appointee

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of April 5, 2007 were amended as follows:

Action Item 1: Delete "Although not on the tour,"

Action Item 2b: Delete the second sentence.

The amended minutes were adopted (MSC Nelson/Shumer, with a vote of 7-0-0, St. John arriving late).

**CHAIR REPORT:** None.

**STAFF REPORT:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Undergrounding:** The subcommittee noted that all Rule 20A funds through 2009 have been committed to previously established districts. It further recognizes PG&E will no longer accept Districts that do not meet the original criteria adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission. The PWC anticipates forwarding a plan for the use of future 20A Undergrounding funds to the Council sometime this year. The subcommittee will make a recommendation to the full commission in the near future. The subcommittee also agreed to provide background and historical information for the benefit of our new Commissioners.

**2. Sustainable Berkeley:** A staff report indicated initial efforts are being made on prioritizing  
**ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST**

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current sustainability efforts. The Commission noted that the program is now part of the City administration, and new staff has been hired and could help us with this issue. It was further noted that the most likely early infrastructure issue might be rising waters impacting the City's storm drainage system. The Public Works Commission position was established, for the time being, to be in a "watching and waiting" mode, and then to react down the road, after impact studies have been completed. If infrastructure is affected, then the Commission definitely wants to be involved. This motion passed (MSC Francis/Wolfe, with a vote of 7-1-0, Prevo opposed).

**3. Recommendations on Pedestrian Plan:** The memorandum was approved as submitted to send to the Pedestrian Plan Subcommittee of the Transportation Commission (MSC St. John/Francis with a vote of 7-0-1, Prevo abstaining). During this discussion, the Commission noted it would like to be involved in the allocation of any new funding as a result of Proposition 1B.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Street Sweeping Memo:** The exact date of the staff report is not yet known, but it is expected to be on a Council Agenda before June 30, 2007. It will indicate that additional resources are needed to add in the opted-out blocks, but the details are not yet known.

**2. Enforcement of New Creeks Ordinance:** The effort by Public Works staff to make "creek determinations" (what is/is not a creek) has not been reduced by the ordinance revisions. The recent notification letters to affected property owners has caused a minor flurry of new requests. Upon review of those letters, the Commission asked for a staff clarification of the language "process in the event of a disaster."

**3. Liaison Assignments:** The list was confirmed, with the addition of Nelson to the Best Management Practices Subcommittee. The Secretary was requested to update and send the liaison list to secretaries of the pertinent commissions. The Chair asked Commissioners to read relevant portions of the Commissioners' Manual and provided examples of pertinent sections.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1. Stormwater/Watershed:** Commissioner Francis noted that the meeting with Dave Richardson, who was the consultant in charge of the 1994 storm drainage system assessment, was canceled and is in the process of being rescheduled. He also noted the recent focus by the State Water Quality Control Board on wet weather treatment facilities and will provide updates.

**2. Best Management Practices:** Commissioner Wolfe drew attention to the packet item on CDBG funds for possible use as financial assistance for private sewer lateral rehabilitation.

#### **NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

1. Status Report on Private Sewer Lateral Program
2. Status of Watershed Management Coordinator
3. Creeks Letters: report on "disaster process" and reactions to letters from recipients
4. Award of Architectural Contract for Corp Yard Renovation

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:40 p.m.