



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 3, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:03 pm

Present: Commissioners Alward, Francis, Henry, Holland, Nelson, Schueler, Shumer, Wolfe

Absent: Commissioner Prevo

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Erica Etelin of Oil Independence Task Force spoke on alternatives to reliance on petroleum products. Ms. Etelin handed out literature on the topic of oil independence, which will be copied and placed in the agenda packet for the May 1, 2008 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The following corrections were made to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2008: (1) Under Public Comment, change “neighbor” to “neighboring,” and (2) in Action Item #1, indicate that the PCI should be included in addition to (rather than in lieu of) the other information. The minutes were adopted as amended (MSC Nelson/Shumer with a vote of 6-0-1, Alward abstaining, Schueler arriving late).

**CHAIR REPORT:** It was proposed to move Information Item #3 to Action, and there were no objections.

**STAFF REPORT:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Corporation Yard Tour for Commissioners Henry and Schueler is scheduled for April 10, 2008 at 8:00 am.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Update of Street Repair Policy (including a presentation of the proposed 5-Year Paving Plan Update):** Staff made a brief presentation on the Street Repair Policy and the Pavement Management System. Streets that are proposed to be repaved or reconstructed in FY 2013 (the

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**Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.**

5<sup>th</sup> year of the Updated 5-yr Paving Plan) were also briefly noted.

It was pointed out that the traditional role of the Commission has been to advise the Council on policy, whether any changes to the policy or criteria were recommended, and to advise whether the updated 5-Year Plan was indeed done in accordance with the existing policy. Since several Commissioners wanted to review the Updated 5-Year Plan in greater detail prior to formally commenting on it, the document was referred to the Right-of-Way Work Group for further consideration. The work group agreed to meet in mid-April and report back to the full Commission at the May 1, 2008 meeting.

**2. Rule 20A Undergrounding Presentation to Council in May 2008:** A summary of the last Undergrounding Work Group meeting was presented. Staff had begun to review historical records of Rule 20A undergrounding done prior to 1990. Although it will be difficult to have a 100% complete picture of the exact dates and amounts spent on undergrounding since the program began, staff has been able to come up with some descriptive data as well as to develop a rough approximation of historic expenditures. Staff is still trying to ascertain whether the Council Work Session tentatively proposed for May 2008 has formally been scheduled. Upon confirmation, another staff/Undergrounding Work Group meeting will be set up for next week.

**3. (Previously Information Item 3) Possible Application of Permeable Pavers:**

Commissioner Henry described his proposal for why and how permeable pavers could be tested for use by the City. Commissioner Henry also detailed other information regarding Pavers as contained in the agenda packet. Paver compliance with ADA standards, their use in sidewalk areas, their effects on bicycles, and noise impacts were brought up for discussion. Interest was expressed in looking at examples of how they have been used in other jurisdictions. The closest known application is at the Port of Oakland. Discussion of this and of possible pilot applications in Berkeley will continue. It was decided that the most appropriate work group for a continuation of the paver-topic discussion was the Right-of-Way Work Group, since the use of pavers was seen as a potential alternative to typical street repair methodology. Commissioners Henry, Schueler, Nelson and Alward or Prevo are on the Right-of-Way Work Group.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Staff Budget Report - Adjustments for FY 2009:** The Secretary indicated that FY 2009 is the second year of a biennial budget, hence no significant modifications are expected at this time. The main potential impact may be from what may transpire at the State level relative to possible budget cuts and the related impact on local programs.

**2. Status of Possible Ballot Measures - Council Work Session on March 25, 2008:** Staff reported on the presentation material in the agenda packet from the Work Session and noted that the storm water measure was seen as being worthy of continued consideration by the Council. It remains as one of several measures being evaluated. It was noted that the proposed storm water fee increase did not include an expansion of the street sweeping program (other than the “opt-in” effort currently underway). The next step is a public opinion poll that will be taken by a professional pollster over the next month or so to gauge local support for the measures.

**3. Pedestrian Plan - Report on Workshop:** A brief summary of the recent workshop and of the Public Works Commission’s prior comments was reported.

**4. Proposal regarding Graywater Use:** The Council Report in the packet was noted. It was also mentioned that EBMUD is sponsoring classes at the Berkeley Ecology Center promoting uses of graywater.

**FUTURE AGENDAS:**

**May:** Annual Street Sweeping Update (Opt Outs), Ballot Measure Progress, Election of Officers

**June:** Private Sewer Lateral Program Update

**July:** Stormwater BMP Work Group report

**Sept:** Work Group Report on paving policies

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:24 pm