



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, June 5, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05pm

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

Absent: Alward (Leave of Absence)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bruce Winkelman, representing the 700 block of Euclid, spoke in response to the Council Work Session of May 20, 2008, and in favor of giving priority to Euclid Avenue for Rule 20A undergrounding.

Susan Wengraf, Council Aide, spoke in favor of giving priority to emergency access from the north Berkeley hills, since it is a highly vulnerable area due to risk of fire / earthquake. She pointed out that the CPUC uses the terminology of “major collector streets”, that the general plan does not use the term “arterial”, and that Figure 9, T-29, of the General Plan has left out many important streets.

Betty Olds, Councilmember, added that fire is the main issue for safety in this area and that downed live electrical wires compound that danger. Cedar, Euclid, Marin, and Spruce should be priority streets for undergrounding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 1, 2008 were adopted as submitted (MSC Wolfe/Prevo, with a vote of 8-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: It was pointed out that the slideshow presentation on Rule 20A undergrounding, given on May 20, 2008, is included in the agenda packet.

STAFF REPORT: None.

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location.

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6346(V) or 981-7075 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PRESENTATION: Permeable Paving Materials, by Keith Lichten, Regional Water Quality Control Board. The content of the presentation is reflected in the copy of the slideshow presentation that is attached to these minutes. Following the presentation, discussion ensued regarding the life cycle of various products, track records of installations in other jurisdictions, and sources of funding for experimental projects (e.g., Caltrans).

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Council Work Session on Utility Undergrounding (May 20, 2008): Discussion was held on the designation of priority streets and the basis for categorizing arterial and collector streets, whether by the General Plan, CPUC criteria, ABAG. Members of the Undergrounding Work Group noted that collector streets located in the north Berkeley hills with high traffic volumes, such as Euclid, Spruce, Grizzly Peak were given consideration as the details of the proposal to Council was developed. The Chair suggested that as a follow-up to the recent Council meeting, and in light of the evening's public comments, that the Undergrounding Work Group reconvene and report back to the Commission. The Chair also noted that it was his understanding that if Council proposed a second public workshop on the topic, that the workshop would most likely be a joint effort of Staff and the Commission, and further that the Council would want to provide at least two months advance public notice, for the purpose of allowing members of the public that may have an interest in attending / commenting an opportunity to reserve the date.

2. Review of Southside Plan EIR – PWC Comment Letter: The draft letter was approved as submitted, with the understanding that Commissioner Wolfe would speak with City Staff to determine if a sentence located in the text at the conclusion of PWC Comment Number 3 that reads "Finally, although new development would need to pay its fair share of improvements, since there are already existing deficiencies (with no offsetting impact fees that can be charged); the City would need to pay for many of these improvements." should be deleted. (MSC Henry/Shumer with a vote of 7-0-0, Schueler departing early). The Chair shall sign a final version, and the Secretary shall forward it to the Planning Department.

3. MTC Paving Condition Survey Report: The copy of the report contained in the packet was duly noted.

4. Correspondence from Berkeley Design Advocates re Union Pacific (moved to Action from Information Calendar): Commissioners Francis and Wolfe will make contact with the Transportation Commission regarding CEQA and other questions and report back as a continued Action Item at the July meeting. The subject may be referred to an Ad Hoc subcommittee for further deliberation.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Update on Possible Additional Stormwater Funding: Ballot Measure or Assessment District: This item is held over to the July 2008 meeting.

2. Private Sewer Lateral Program (Staff Update on Status of Program and Review of Family Transfer Exemption): This item is held over to the July 2008 meeting.

3. EBMUD Announcement re Drought Measures: This item was duly noted.

FUTURE AGENDAS:

Sept: Work Group Report on paving policies/recommendations to Council regarding permeable paving materials

Nov: Update on Municipal Regional Permits and Street Sweeping Implications

ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 p.m.