



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:12 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Alward, Henry, Holland, Nelson, Prevo, Schueler, Soto-Vigil, Wolfe

Absent: None

Vacant: Councilmember Anderson's Appointee

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Barbara Allen**, Miller/Stevenson Underground District #47, commented on the Work Group report and advocated for a City-wide master plan including evacuation routes..

**Dick White**, Panoramic Hill, stated that Panoramic Way is a major evacuation route and is a notable omission from the proposal.

**Suzanne Scotchmer**, Panoramic Hill, resides on Dwight Place, which is a real hazard because it is over the Hayward Fault.

**Steve Chainey**, Panoramic Way, spoke in favor of undergrounding Panoramic Way.

**Trudy Washburn**, Ajax/Summit Undergrounding, advocated disaster preparedness and completing portions of Spruce/Euclid and other streets that have been mostly undergrounded already.

**Cathy Orozco**, Panoramic Hill, spoke in favor of undergrounding Panoramic Way.

**Sara Shumer**, Berkeley, provided a brief history of underground financing in Berkeley, indicating that large areas were undergrounded in the 1970's, primarily with BART and CALTRANS funds. Then in the 1990's Rule 20A funds were used to form districts for property owners who were willing to pay their share.

**Zelda Bronstein**, Berkeley, spoke in favor of the goal of the greatest public good and generally supported the present direction of the PWC.

**Jesse Townley**, Berkeley, is the Vice Chair of the Disaster & Fire Safety Commission and stated that the major evacuation routes are just as important in the "flatlands" as in the hills.

**Wendy Alfsen**, Central Berkeley Disaster Preparedness, emphasized the importance of obtaining input from other commissions.

**Fran Haselsteiner**, Dwight Way Neighbors, advocated the inclusion of Dwight Way in the vicinity of San Pablo Avenue.

**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.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** In the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 6, 2008, under “2009 Planning and Work Group Assignments,” the item titled “January watershed workshops” was amended to “January permeable paver workshop.” The minutes for both the November 6, 2008 meeting and the December 6, 2008 meeting, as amended, were approved (MSC Nelson/Schueler, with a vote of 8-0-0).

**CHAIR REPORT:** Commissioner Sara Shumer’s appointment has expired, due to the eight-year term limit, and Alejandro Soto-Vigil has been appointed by Councilmember Worthington to replace her. Commissioner Soto-Vigil was introduced and welcomed. Commissioner Wolfe announced that this is her last meeting and that she has been informed by Councilmember Wengraf’s office that she will be replaced by Barbara Allen. The secretary noted, however, that no official notice of such has been received.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Department was nationally accredited by the American Public Works Association in 2001 and is being re-accredited later this month. Commissioners are invited to attend the reception for the arrival of the APWA re-accreditation team on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 5:00 pm at Spenger’s. Those interested in attending should contact the secretary. If a quorum of the Commission attends, it must be noticed as a public meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Adoption of 2009 Work Plan:** The Work Plan was amended to delete Workgroup Tasks D (Commissioners Handbook) and E (Watershed Workshop). Commissioner Soto-Vigil would like to be added to A (Utility Undergrounding). The amended Work Plan was adopted (MSC Holland/Nelson, with a vote of 8-0-0).

**2. Street Repair Policy Proposal:** Commissioner Schueler will work with the secretary to update certain funding references and other language, to come back with a final version at the February 2009 meeting.

**3. Rule 20A Undergrounding:** After discussion, paragraph 5 was removed from the Work Group recommendation. The amended Work Group report was then adopted for submittal to the Transportation and the Disaster & Fire Safety Commissions (MSC Holland/Soto-Vigil, with a vote of 8-0-0). Further discussions ensued regarding various options for paying for the private portions of the undergrounding. Paragraph 5 was then adopted as originally submitted (MSC Prevo/Holland, with a vote of 7-1-0, Wolfe voting no).

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**Upcoming Council Work Sessions:** The secretary announced that the Watershed Management Work Session will be held on February 17, 2009, with an introduction to Permeable Pavers as an effective treatment, to be followed by a brief presentation on that topic by the PWC.

**FUTURE AGENDAS:** The February 2009 agenda should include –

- Election of Officers
- Revised Street Rehabilitation Policy
- Work Group report on Permeable Paver presentation
- Staff status report on economic conditions

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:11 p.m.