



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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MINUTES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Board of Supervisors Chambers – 701 Ocean Street

Time: 5:00 p.m.

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Johnson at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Tom Rosewall, Len Beyea;
Robert Stokes; Alan Schlenger; and Ken Adelman.

Absent: Dan Haifley and Betsy Herbert

Staff: Nancy Gordon, Director, General Services Department

Other County staff: Bob Kennedy; Enrique Sahagun; Melodye Serino; John Ricker; and
Mark Deming

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – upon motion of Stokes, second by Rosewall, minutes of August approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

Public member Jim Rothstein addressed the Commission.

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Correspondence - see attached

B. Discovery Process presentation – Joel Kaufman, Local Solar Expert
Kaufman offered overview of solar costs under potential 811 financing program.
Discussion continued on impacts of changing variables in program implementation
data and progress by Sonoma County and cities of Palm Desert and Berkeley.
During oral comments, public member Rothstein addressed the Commission.

C. Request from UCSC regarding the Committee on Sustainability and Stewardship.
Rosewall will attend meeting and report back on UCSC work at December 9th
meeting.

D. Status of Committee Activities

1. Green Building Task Force – September 11 meeting cancelled due to local government furloughs
 2. Climate Action Compact Working Group – Rosewall/Johnson. Johnson provided August 27 notes; next meeting September 25. During oral comments, public member Rothstein addressed the Commission.
 3. Legislative Recommendations or Updates – Schlenger/Haifley/Adelman/Stokes.
In considering ideas for consideration during 2010 Legislative session – Schlenger recommended that Commission ask Board to support those GHG reduction efforts previously endorsed last year that did not go through, and also to include consideration of a local ban on single use bags. During oral comments, public member Rothstein addressed the Commission. Upon motion of Sarris, second by Beyea, Commission unanimously endorsed the legislative recommendation proposed by Schlenger.
- E. Status report – County’s proposed Green Building Program (Tom Burns/Mark Deming). Deming explained that Tuesday, September 29 was presentation of ordinance establishing the Green Building Program, with a return date of November 3 with resolution establishing checklist. Ordinance effective January 4, 2010. Brief discussion followed.
- F. County Climate Action Strategy
Johnson presented draft document toward making recommendations to Board and/or next steps; Commission to discuss at next meeting or two.
- G. Upcoming United Way Community Assessment Project Annual Event
Johnson reminded group of November 23 date for release of local United Way annual report.
- H. Upcoming Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission workshop.
Information offered on upcoming workshop on STARS (sustainable transportation counterpart to LEEDS system)
- I. Set future agendas and prioritize future Discovery Process presentations.
October meeting will be joint study session with Water Advisory Commission. Next meetings to include proposed 2010 work plan (January), discussion on County Climate Action Strategy (January), and approval of calendar for next year (December).
- J. Commissioner announcements and roundtable discussion
Sarris spoke about regional effort to prepare community for electric vehicle charging stations for public. Johnson informed Commissioners of grant award for \$195,000 under AB2766 for Zip Car program.

During oral comments, public member Rothstein addressed the Commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by consensus at 7:03 p.m. Next meeting is joint meeting with Water Advisory Commission on October 28, 2009; next regular meeting is December 9, 2009.