



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 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 5:04 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Len Beyea, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Ken Adelman,
Tom Rosewall, Robert Stokes and Alan Schlenger.
Absent: Dan Haifley and Betsy Herbert.
Staff: Nancy Gordon, Deputy Director, General Services Department

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review minutes of December 10, 2008. Stokes moved, Sarris seconded, to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2008 meeting. Approved.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

None.

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

- A. Correspondence
- B. Presentation from County Redevelopment Agency regarding green projects
Agency Director Betsey Lynberg explained LEEDS certification process is underway on two RDA projects and made brief comments on RDA experiences with Live Oak Library project in meeting green standards. Two RDA project managers, Cheryl Bailey and Bob Hambleton, presented information on the progress of their respective assignments with The Farm Park and Community Center and the Live Oak Resource Center. Commissioners thanked them and expressed appreciation for the work to date.
- C. Presentation from Planning Department – Proposed Green Building Program
Assistant Planning Director Mark Deming gave overview of BOS report, explaining differences from city of Santa Cruz, and briefly reviewed changes in upcoming state building codes. Deming stated department's intention to make a formal presentation to COE in either March or April, and then present to BOS in June. Discussion ensued, with commentary offered on budget ramifications precluding major capital outlay at this time, e plan check information, advance planning approval/pre

development site review. Commissioners complimented Deming on staff progress and efforts to date.

- D. EcoPark report of 12/16/08 to the Board and possible recommendations.
Project Manger Melodye Serino gave power point presentation on development of EcoPark and its projected four-year timeline. Project does not include conversion technology in permit at this point. General discussion ensued with commentary and support offered by Nancy Macy, SLV Recycling Center (Valley Women's Club, Tom del Conte of Vision Recycling and Kirsten Liske of California Products Stewardship Council. After further discussion, Beyea made motion for COE to endorse full EIR for EcoPark project, and Stokes seconded motion. Under discussion, Sarris and Adelman offered comments regarding importance of looking at new technologies and beginning discussion with Coastal Commission now. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Ongoing Discovery Process - Presentation on Berkeley First Program.
Colin Clark of Ecology Action gave power point presentation on Berkeley's new program to offer tax bill financing on solar and energy efficiency residential projects. Web site for program description and more is www.Berkeleyfirst.renewfund.com. Discussion ensued regarding incentives for rental properties and joint powers authority structures for managing program.
- F. Refine agenda for Special Study Session for Board of Supervisors on February 24, 2009.
Commissioners briefly reviewed draft agenda as revised. Sarris and Adelman will confirm their availability as presenters for the 2/24 date. Commissioners agreed that a small group will meet separately in accordance with the Brown Act to prepare for presentation.
- G. Roundtable Discussion
Sarris invited Commissioners to February 12 presentation by Van Jones on the green job economy. Presentation begins at 7:20 pm at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Kasa invited Commissioners to Save Our Shores presentation at First Congregational Church on High Street on February 17 from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- H. Set February 25, 2009 agenda.

Proposed items:

- (1) Ongoing discovery process – presentation to be determined
- (2) Follow up items from 2/24/09 Special Study Session before the Board
- (3) Streamlined process to check on 2009 legislation
- (4) 2009 Commission work plan

Agenda items continued to 2009 meetings:

- 1. Presentation from Dr. Lisa Sloan, UCSC Climate Scientist regarding changes to the Santa Cruz area due to global warming (spring 2009)
- 2. George Dondero, Executive Director, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission regarding SB 375 (available after March 2009).
- 3. Forestry presentation on logging rotation as mitigation of GHG (early spring)
- 4. Zap Electronics (referred by Stokes)
- 5. Draft 2009 Work plan

6. Green Economy Stimulus Package – presentation by Representative Sam Farr or his staff)
7. PGE progress on work plan goals
8. Amendments to local logging protocol resulting in more effective GHG mitigation
9. Green Building Task Force – 2009 meeting schedule and agenda items
10. COE Committee reports: Climate Change Impacts and Legislative
11. Climate Action Compact next steps and co-operative projects

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by consensus at 7:10 p.m. Next meeting is February 25, 2009.
Adelman reminded everyone that he would not be at the March meeting.