



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 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 5:00 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Dan Haifley, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Tom Rosewall, Robert Stokes, and Alan Schlenger.

Absent: Ken Adelman, Betsy Herbert, and Len Beyea

Staff: Nancy Gordon, Deputy Director, General Services Department

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review minutes of February 25, 2009. Corrections noted in spelling. Stokes moved, Kasa seconded, to approve the minutes as corrected from the February 25, 2009 meeting. Approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

None.

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Correspondence - no comments.

B. Ongoing Discovery Process

1. Presentation by AMBAG staff on Transportation and Land Use Planning regional blueprint planning process postponed to April 2009 meeting.

2. Waste Free Schools – Johnson and Schlenger reminded the Commission of their relationship with Ecology Action, (Executive Director and Board member respectively), and their intent to recuse themselves from the discussion regarding WFS. Dan Haifley volunteered to facilitate the discussion in their absence. After Johnson and Schlenger exited the meeting room, an overview presentation on Waste Free Schools was made by Molly Ober, Ecology Action staff. Ms. Ober requested endorsement from COE members for Board of Supervisors. After discussion among members present, it was determined that action could not be taken due to lack of quorum. Members agreed to continue discussion to April, with Sarris suggesting additional financial data be provided from Ober. Johnson and Schlenger reentered the meeting after the discussion concluded.

- C. Continued discussion on Board of Supervisors Study Session (February 24, 2009). A brief discussion ensued among members on presentation.
- D. Approval of proposed 2009 Commission Work Plan
Johnson reviewed items. Through discussion, following suggestions offered: remove dates from proposed discovery presentations topics; ask presenters to include GHG footprint impact and job creation; desalination plants; workforce-green jobs; include CARB numbers for regional targets; use of grey water restrictions; water topics (conservations, desalination, grey water); legislative role for COE; topics related to increasing green jobs; staff support; identification of what is needed to achieve plan objectives, including what help from what source. Item continued for action/discussion at April meeting.
- E. Status of Committee activities
 - 1. Green Building Task Force – Sarris and Johnson attended March 13, 2009 meeting; three more meetings scheduled for 2009. Every city has adopted green building program, with all in various stages of implementation. Johnson will share minutes of meeting at next COE meeting.
 - 2. Climate Action Compact Working Group – continued to next meeting.
 - 3. Legislative Recommendations or Updates – Schlenger spoke briefly of AB64 and SB14 (Simitian), which call for 33% renewables in portfolio standard by 2020. Rosewall suggested comparison to AB32. Committee will bring recommendation for possible action to next COE meeting.
- F. Set April 22nd Agenda. Proposed items:
Ongoing discovery process – Climate Change and Water Impacts by Dr. Betsy Herbert; AMBAG presentation; continued discussion on February 24 Study Session and integration with 2009 work plan; election of officers; committee updates.
- G. Roundtable/announcements
Stokes provided report on Buena Vista tour, including composting demonstration. Haifley reported that O’Neill Sea Odyssey now has served 50,000 children. Kasa reported that City of Watsonville had first reading on instituting a Styrofoam ban.
Sarris – reported on other local efforts regarding grey water in Monterey Bay region and that on April 1st the US Green Building Council will host presentation by Peter Haas in Moss Landing on water reuse systems.
Johnson reported on Central Coast water projects that are now on hold due to state budget crisis.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by consensus at 6:45 p.m. Next meeting is April 22, 2009.