



# County of Santa Cruz

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## COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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### MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 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 5:03 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Betsy Herbert; Dan Haifley, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Tom Rosewall, Len Beyea, Ken Adelman and Alan Schlenger.

Absent: Robert Stokes

Staff: Nancy Gordon, Director, General Services Department

Other County staff: Melodye Serino; John Ricker; Mark Deming; Jennifer Hutchison; Dave Reid; Tom Burns; Glenna Hill; and Josh Reilly.

#### II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

None.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review minutes of April 22, 2009. Haifley moved, Kasa seconded, to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2009 meeting. Approved unanimously.

#### IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

None.

#### V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Correspondence - see attached

B. Ongoing Discovery Process

1. Status report – County internal inventory - Josh Reilly, General Services

Reilly gave presentation on ICLEI inventory process, which began in October 2008.

Reilly gave overview of data gathering work to realize milestone 1, and discussed staff time, records issues, and projected data analysis.

2. Proposed County Green Building Program – County Planning Department. Deming reviewed Board report on agenda for June 9. Discussion items included a request from COE to provide input, as well as design community. Goal of Planning remains to have program up and running in January 2010. Outstanding questions include integration with GHG reduction effects and future options, LEED for non residential, adequate lead time for public, incentives offered for program participation, consistency between

large and small project applications, Title 24 performance compliance, consistency with other local government jurisdiction to avoid confusion, consideration of US EPA standards. Commissioners agreed to endorse program to the Board, with the COE to continue to work with Planning on details and improvements following motion by Sarris, second by Haifley. Sarris agreed to represent COE at June 9 Board of Supervisors meeting. Commissioners closed item by acknowledging the hard work by Planning staff and restating their willingness to offer assistance in implementation and program refinement.

- C. Consideration of draft letter for information presentations – Rosewall/Johnson. Item continued from previous meeting. Under discussion, group agreed to make optional the information elements optional to the presenter, and shorten the letter to one page (approximately 200 words). Rosewall agreed to handle revision and then forward the letter to Johnson and Gordon for future presenters.
- D. Proposed legislation from Assembly Member Monning – Sarris  
Sarris reviewed goal of AB828 to increase state stakeholder involvement; there are no added costs for local government. Haifley added that Legislative Committee criteria met in making a recommendation to Board for endorsing legislation. Under discussion, concern expressed about state agencies would paralyze appropriate action and the need to have the ability to expedite response and not being bogged down in bureaucracy. Upon motion of Schlenger, second by Sarris, Commissioners agreed unanimously to endorse the legislation to the Board of Supervisors.
- E. Status of Committee activities
  - 1. Green Building Task Force – Sarris/Johnson. Next quarterly meeting on June 12. Johnson provided roster of previous attendees to Commissioners.
  - 2. Climate Action Compact Working Group – Rosewall/Johnson. Johnson provided copy of Board report on Solar Santa Cruz County finance district study. Planning and RDA pilot program to return for Board discussion in August. Johnson offered information on Community Credit Union work to provide green loans. Johnson also offered information on Zip Car fleet program proposal under AB2766 grant opportunity, which is expansion of existing UCSC program.
  - 3. Legislative Recommendations or Updates – no specific information offered. HR Clean Energy and Security Act underwent major revision last week, and is no longer offering cap and trade element, and is now facing added modification through committee process. COE discussed having a presentation from Sam Farr’s office; Haifley will follow up.
- F. Set June 24 Agenda. Proposed items:  
Ongoing discovery process – Presentation from SCCRTC regarding transportation Demand management (Dondero/Speiser); consideration of draft recommendation to the Board on strategy to evaluate County of Santa Cruz Greenhouse Gas and economic Development Policies and Programs (Johns/Rosewall), presentation from Farr’s office on Waxman cap and trade bill (Haifley to check with Farr, Johnson to check with Daniel Press).

G. Roundtable/announcements

Herbert told COE that she had attended a County water meeting and had provide information on carbon credits/forestry. In discussion, members confirmed they were interested in a joint meeting with water advisory commission. Herbert will meet with Ricker for coordination of a future date. Sarris provided information on a volunteer effort in community for electric vehicle infrastructure and was being hosted on 6/11 by the IBEW. Johnson invited interested parties to next Green Drinks networking opportunity on June 3 from 5-7 pm in the Cypress Lounge in Santa Cruz.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned by consensus at 6:58 p.m. Next meeting is June24, 2009.